

THE TIMES
1785-1985
Tomorrow

Israel's war
In the first of
a three-part series
Robert Fisk assesses
Israel's invasion
of Lebanon
True or false?
New evidence on the
controversial \$7m painting
the "Annunciation"
Midfielder
David Miller meets
Michael Plattini -
the best footballer
in Europe
Real gems
Suzi Menkes on
the boom in
new jewellery

Portfolio

There were no winners of either the £200 weekly prize or the £2,000 daily prize in *The Times* Portfolio competition on Saturday. As there is no competition today, tomorrow's daily prize is doubled to £4,000. Next Saturday's weekly prize will be £40,000.

Wall kills 11 campers in France

A collapsing cement wall killed at least 11 people, including five children, at a camp site in the south of France. Another six sleeping campers were injured as the wall damaged by heavy rains, fell on their tents. About 800 holiday-makers were on the site at Saint-Cyr-sur-Mer at the time of the accident. Page 4

Dissident joy

Jack Kuron, one of Poland's leading dissidents, celebrated an unexpected legal victory after a Warsaw court overturned his jail sentence for joining a Solidarity demonstration. Page 11

Pretoria reform

South Africa is to end the prohibition of racially mixed political parties, and the exclusive right of whites to supervisory jobs in mines. Page 6

China trip

In an account published for the first time of a trip to China in 1957, Graham Greene reveals the tensions and troubles within a small group of British travellers. *Spectrum*, page 8

MPs' travel

Commons pressure is increasing to force MPs to declare free overseas travel in the *Register of Members' Interests* because a growing number are failing to comply with the voluntary arrangements. Page 2

Trials death

A young woman was trampled to death by a horse at the Windsor Horse Trials after she was thrown from a horse she had asked to ride. Page 15

Oil price cut

Norway has cut the price of its North Sea crude oil by up to a dollar a barrel, suggesting that petrol prices could drop. Page 13

Gooch back

England have recalled Gooch and Willey, after the ending of the South African ban, for the one-day cricket series against Australia. Page 13

ENIGMA

Your last chance to crack the Enigma code... and win two flights to Singapore, plus £1,000, or one of the 25 valuable prizes from British Telecom. See Computer Horizons tomorrow.

Leader page 11
Letters: On universities from Mr M. Taylor and Mr K. Cooper; orchids from Mr A. F. Porter
Leading articles: solidarity trial in Poland; Labelling of goods; Argentina
Features, pages 9, 10
Britain's role in a Middle East plot; how the Falklands could prosper; Scotland's other festival. Monday Page: Aquino's widow, a symbol of hope
Obituary, page 12
Professor Wladyslaw Sluckin, Miss Julia de Lacy Mann

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5,000 feared drowned in Bangladesh tidal waves

By Our Foreign Staff

Rescuers fear that tidal waves whipped up by cyclones may have claimed 5,000 victims in southern Bangladesh. At least 1,500 people are known to have died, and thousands more have been swept away. The official toll does not include thousands believed lost when 10ft to 15ft waves crashed over the tiny island of Utrichar, in the island-dotted mouth of the sacred River Ganges. One report said that some of the 10,000 people on the island had fled before the waves hit on Saturday. Only a family of four has been plucked from the

Some of the worst natural disasters recorded in the past 100 years include:
Floods, Hwang-ho River, China, 1887 900,000 dead
Cyclone/tidal wave, Ganges Delta islands, East Pakistan (Bangladesh), 1970 200,000-500,000
Landslide, Kansu province, China, 1920 180,000
Volcano/tidal wave, Krakatoa, Indonesia, 1883 36,000
Avalanches, Dolomites, Italy, 1916 18,000
Earthquake/avalanches, Yungay, Peru, 1970 18,000
Dam burst, Manaccha River dam, Gujarat, India, 1979 5,000

rough seas of the Bay of Bengal. No contact can be established with the island, which had been inhabited only for four years. But the crew of a plane which flew over reported everything swept away.

Attempts to find the thousands missing were beaten back by heavy rain which caused fresh floods in low-lying areas, officials said last night.

A television reporter who visited the area said nearly half the 10,000 population of Utrichar may have been killed. Army helicopters and naval

patrol boats are conducting a mass search for victims of the waves, which caused havoc to houses, crops and fishing-boats, officials said. Winds of 80mph were also reported.

The cyclone and waves engulfed the areas of Noakhali, Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Patuakhali and Bhola, and the islands of Sandwip, Utrichar and Kutubdia.

State television last night reported at least 1,500 bodies recovered, and the toll is certain to rise as information flows in from remote areas.

He feared that most villagers from Utrichar were "probably washed away from this low-lying area and buried in the bay". More than 5,000 people living on the near by Sandwip Island are also believed to have been hit hard.

The Relief Minister, Mahabub Jan Choudhury, said after touring the affected areas that the final toll might not be as alarming as was feared.

President Hossain Mohammad Ershad yesterday scrapped a Cabinet meeting and cancelled all official engagements before flying to Sandwip and Hatia to supervise rescue operations. He has ordered \$400,000 (about £310,000) set aside for relief operations.

President Ershad visited islands where tens of thousands are facing shortages of drinking water, food and fuel, and saw hundreds of people being treated in hospitals.

Mr Choudhury said the number of victims was unlikely to be as great as in two disasters in 1962 and 1970 which killed 25,000 and more than 100,000 respectively.

DELHI: Floods have cut roads and electricity throughout Tripura state and forced the evacuation of 1,000 people after torrential rain. The Press Trust of India said yesterday (AFP reports).

New pit strike fears as NCB denies split

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The coal industry faces the threat of an all-out strike by pit deputies, whose overtime ban today goes into its second week without any serious prospect of peace talks.

Leaders of the deputies' union Nacods are circulating to colliery branches details of a secret "hard line" management communication that spells out stringent measures to be taken against overmen whose actions disrupt production.

The six-page document has been supplied to the union by mine managers who sympathize with their industrial action against the National Coal Board's closure of pits before the modified review procedure agreed with Nacods last October can begin operating.

Mr Peter McNestry, general secretary of Nacods, said last night: "The board wants a showdown. They have had such a long battle with the miners

they have lost all commonsense. They don't want agreements any more; they just want to fight unions and break unions".

The coal board went to unusual lengths yesterday to deny that it was split in its tactics for combating the deputies' action, but speculation persists that the tough line being taken by Mr Ian MacGregor, its chairman, is unpopular with some managers at coal headquarters and in the coalfields.

Mr James Cowan, deputy chairman of the coal board, said in a statement: "I refute absolutely the allegation of a revolt within the board over action being taken concerning the officials' union Nacods. The board are united, as are the area directors with whom I am in regular contact."

The management document, dated May 9, which is circulating among deputies, proposes that area managers should make "every effort" to persuade the officials to work normally and in the event of a dispute, "the board will have to take stringent measures to deal with it".

Those could involve stopping the pay of deputies who turn up later than they are told to; the docking of incentive bonuses; and the sending home of men. "If they send people home, the situation will change rapidly. If anything, MacGregor is



Mr McNestry (left) and Mr Cowan

Prior senses changes without a U-turn

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr James Prior, the former Conservative Cabinet minister, said yesterday that the Prime Minister would bend and manipulate her policies to deal with unemployment - without doing a U-turn.

The senior backbencher, who is now chairman of GEC, said on TV-am's *Good Morning Britain* that he had had about 20 meetings with Mrs Margaret Thatcher when he was in the Cabinet, and that it was "hell" being a Tory rebel.

He also said: "Sometimes I think her critics make it very difficult for her to change her policies." Mr Prior, who said that he had declined an invitation to join Mr Francis Pym's Centre Forward group, said: "I do think the measure of their presentism has been such that they have made it very difficult for themselves and quite difficult for Mrs Thatcher."

"The great mistake, and I don't think it was necessarily intended that way, was for it to come out as being a party

within a party," although he added that he sympathized with their general approach.

But Mr Prior said that Mrs Thatcher was "a very clever political animal" that she did take secret notice of the opinion polls, and that she would make adjustments which could help her to win the next election.

He said: "Certainly, she will not change her views publicly, but whether she will manipulate things privately is another matter."

"It is too glib to say that if the Government would increase public expenditure by £1 billion pounds the unemployment problem would be solved. I don't think it will happen that way."

"There will be some adjustments of policy, there always has to be and always will be."

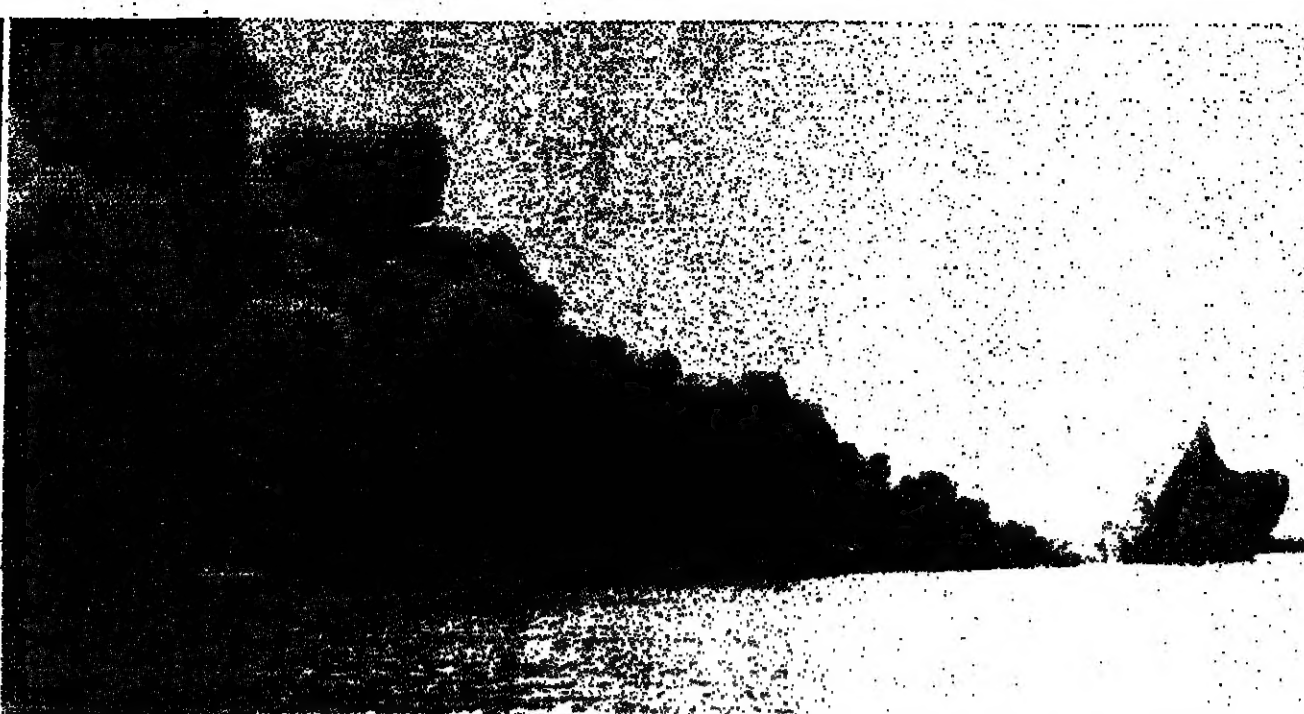
Mr Prior said: "I may not agree with her, but I admire her political sense and her populist approach. I suspect that she is just beginning to say: 'Perhaps we can do one or two things a little differently.' But she must

not let it be seen she is doing that because it would be seen as a U-turn and because the great quality that 'the lady' is not for turning' would be lost. She has to be very clever about it."

But Mrs Thatcher's populism was strongly criticized in the BBC radio series on *The Thatcher phenomenon* last night. Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, said Mrs Thatcher is one of the most ruthless party politicians this country has ever seen and very clearly has a ruthless election strategy which is to put together a coalition of people who have benefited materially from her administration.

He also attacked the Prime Minister's guile, saying: "I have never seen such a politician in terms of unscrupulous association with things that seem likely to win her votes."

Mr Gerald Kaufman, the shadow Home Secretary, said that Mrs Thatcher had boxed



Smoke pouring (above) from the bow section of the *Petrage One* as she sinks after the blast and rescuers (left) taking an injured sailor to a first-aid post.

25 killed as blast sinks tankers near Gibraltar

From Richard Wigg in Madrid and Rodney Cowton in La Linea

At least 25 people were killed and more than 40 injured yesterday when a huge explosion destroyed two tankers near La Linea, across the bay from Gibraltar. Officials, who said it was Spain's worst shipping disaster in modern times, later put the number of dead at at least 34.

It is feared there are bodies trapped in the hulks of the vessels, and that the death toll could reach 40. The cause of the blast is not known.

The *Petrage One*, a 30,000-tonne Japanese chartered tanker, exploded while discharging highly-inflammable naphtha. The explosion set fire to an 8,000-tonne Spanish tanker, the *Campanavia*, which was moored close by and loading petrol.

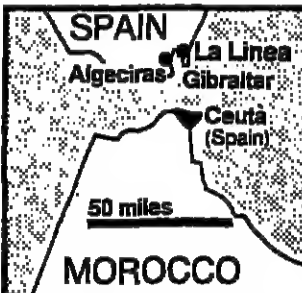
Flames leapt hundreds of feet and bodies were thrown into the air, later to be picked up by tugs from Algeciras and Gibraltar assisted by fishing vessels.

All yesterday afternoon tugs played jets of water on the remains of the ships. Of the *Petrage One* there was nothing visible above the surface apart from a few mangled sheets of steel strewn over the jetty to which it had been moored.

The *Campanavia* had broken its back, with the bow and stern sections pointing skywards.

The explosion was heard up to 50 miles away at Fuengirola, from where a cloud of grey smoke, several thousand feet high, could be seen. Throughout the afternoon thick black acrid smoke, and occasional bursts of flame, poured from the *Campanavia*.

The ships had been moored about 400 yards from an oil refinery just outside the tiny village of Puente Mayorga, about three miles from La Linea. A 20-yard gash was blown in the jetty.



on shore. Senior Felix Ruiz, who was in charge of the refinery - yesterday, said it remained in production.

Pipes leading from the jetty to the refinery were closed, and water was played on them.

The dead and injured were taken to hospital in Algeciras and La Linea. The 29-member crew of *Petrage One* was mainly Japanese; the *Campanavia* had an all-Spanish crew of 30.

The explosion occurred just after 11am as many inhabitants of suburbs near the refinery were preparing to go for a day on adjacent beaches. The blast caused panic, with people rushing out into the streets from their homes.

The authorities broadcast appeals for calm, emphasizing that the flames had not reached the refinery.

Senior Eugenio Marin, general manager of the Spanish state petrol company, Cepas, said the oil slick in the bay would not damage local beaches.

Campbell in sabotage crash

From Our Correspondent

Miss Gina Campbell, the world water speed record holder, narrowly escaped death in the Fowey Cornwall power boat race yesterday after some-one tampered with her boat. Experts were investigating after two other boats in the race had also been found to have been sabotaged.

Miss Campbell, whose father Donald died in a record attempt on Lake Coniston and who herself survived a high speed crash last year, was neck and neck with the leaders of yesterday's race when her gear box and propeller sheared off at 60 miles an hour.

Her boat, *Agfa Bluebird IV* spun through 180 degrees, missed other from-running craft and by only a few feet, narrowly escaped overturning in choppy seas.

Miss Campbell, aged 37, and her co-driver, Mike Stanning, escaped unhurt when disaster struck one third of the way through the 70 mile UK Offshore Boating Association race which had been postponed from Saturday because of bad weather.

Miss Campbell said: "We're lucky to be alive. It was a deliberate attempt at sabotage. If we had hit one of the other boats which were just a few feet away or if we'd capsized as we went broadside into the waves we would have been killed. I can't believe anyone would want me dead."

Miss Campbell's sponsors, *Agfa*, plan to tighten security for her race in Jersey next month. A race spokesman said: "The chief scrutineer examined all three boats and is satisfied that they were sabotaged. There will be no official investigation but we do not intend to bring in the police."

TAKE A NEW LOOK AT KING PENGUIN...

1982 JANINE Alasdair Gray
A remarkable black humourist... a painful, almost flawless journey - George Melly in the *Sunday Times* 'Books of the Year' £3.95

THE PORK BUTCHER David Hughes
Winner of the W.E.B. Smith Literary Award 1985
An unforgettable experience... written with extraordinary elegance - Observer £2.95

ANGELS Denis Johnson
'These of amazing power and style... a small masterpiece' - Philip Roth in the *Sunday Times* 'Books of the Year' £2.95

THE HAWTHORN Glyn Hughes
Triumphantly individual, mingling the eerie, the sombre and the poetic in writing of inescapable power - Observer £2.95

DANGEROUS PLAY Poems 1974-1984
Andrew Motion
Winner of the 1984 John Llewelyn Rhys Memorial Prize
A masterly collection from one of the most original and influential poets of his generation £2.95

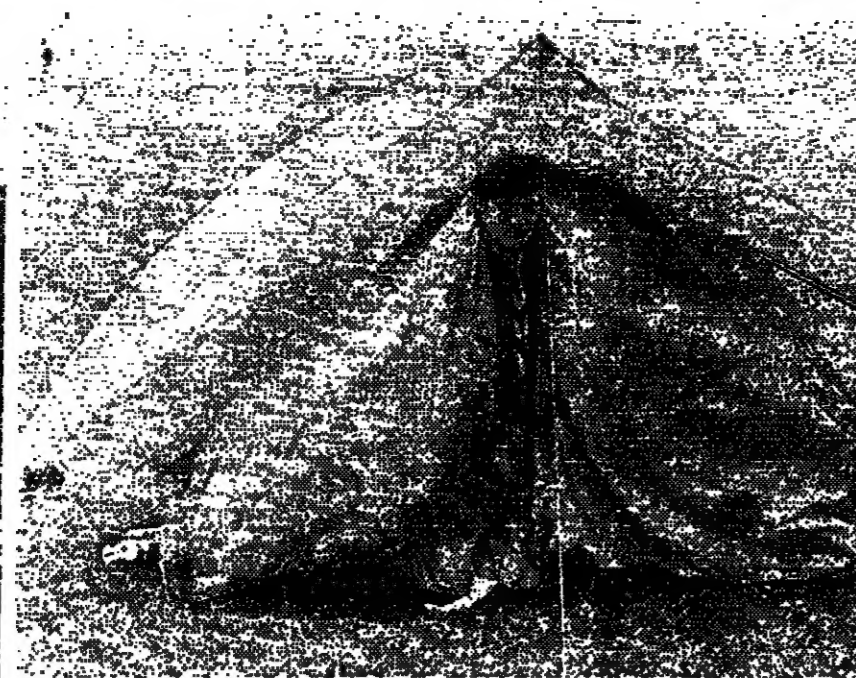
PARALLEL LIVES Five Victorian Marriages
Phyllis Rose
Outstanding... brilliantly evokes these ink-fingered unions before the bright sun of time - Norman St John Stevas in the *Sunday Times* 'Books of the Year' £3.95

YOU'LL BE SURPRISED...

The British bank holiday weekend - with everything from hamburgers to flash floods



Weather permitting: Bankholiday weekenders warmed up with hamburgers at RAF Mildenhall's air fete (photograph: Warren Harrison) but Scouts at a camp in Middle Wallop, Hampshire, had their hands full preventing tents from taking off in a gale (photograph: Dod Miller). At Torquay, the "English Riviera" woke up to flash floods yesterday.



Trail of havoc in storms

By Patricia Clough

Fierce thunderstorms swept across south-east England yesterday leaving a trail of floods, fires and wrecked cars. Three families in Stanford-la-Hope, Essex, were left homeless after their houses were hit by lightning. More bolts of lightning caused fires at houses in Gosport, Basingstoke and Farnborough, Hampshire, while the telephone at New Milton police station in Hampshire and Littlehampton police station in Sussex were put out of action.

Many roads across the south of England were flooded. Near Chelmsford, Essex, fire crews were called to free people trapped after cars aquaplaned off the road and crashed. Firemen received more than 100 calls for help from people whose houses were flooded in the area from Harlow to Tilbury, while police were inundated with calls as lightning triggered off dozens of burglars and fire alarms.

In Bournemouth, Reading and Great Yarmouth the holiday was marred by violence and offences by holidaymakers and a total of 64 people were arrested.

Britain's world motorcycle road racing champion, Joey Dunlop, was among nine people who narrowly escaped drowning when their boat sank in rough seas early Sunday.

They were heading for the Whit TT event on the Isle of Man when the vessel, a converted trawler hit rocks off the Ulster coast. They were able to scramble on to life rafts before it went down but lost eight motorcycles.

Temperatures in some areas were above average for the time of year, with Norwich enjoying 75 degrees and parts of Yorkshire 73 degrees.

Forty-three people, including nine women, were arrested after 50 skinheads, armed with bottles and a CS gas canister, attacked a Bournemouth public house where they had been refused entry.

Weather forecast, back page

Pressure mounts for MPs to declare free trips

By Anthony Bevin, Political Correspondent

Commons pressure is building up to force MPs to declare free overseas travel and other business inducements in the Register of Members' Interests. Some MPs on the select committee of members' interests believe that the existing voluntary arrangements for registration are being discredited by the growing number of Commons colleagues failing to make full or adequate declarations.

But a committee report on commercial and industrial lobbying of MPs by pressure groups attempting to exert an influence on government policy is thought to have confined itself to a repeat appeal to MPs to make full declarations. The report is to be published on June 13.

The Times reported earlier this month that at least seven Conservative and Labour MPs had failed to register visits made to the Middle East last year, as guests of the Israeli government, the Arab League and the Palestine Liberation

Organization, and it is understood that a number of MPs who went to Hong Kong as guests of the administration also failed to register those visits.

Pressure for a clampdown is bound to be increased by reports yesterday that four members of the Conservative backbench aviation committee had been flown to the United States last September, visiting New York, Chicago and Atlanta - to study American airports policy.

Only one of the MPs had declared the visit, although the register calls for declaration of "overseas visits relating to or arising out of membership of the House where the cost of any such visit has not been wholly borne by the member or by public funds."

Mrs Angela Rumbold, Conservative MP for Mitcham and Morden and parliamentary private secretary to Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for

Transport, is one of five Conservative MPs who was flown to Rio de Janeiro on a British Airways inaugural flight earlier this month.

She said yesterday that she had been "surprised" to learn that it was increased to register the flight. She said: "My job was to go out and wave the flag for Britain. If British industry is to get off the ground, they are going to get support from wherever they can. I despair of the tendency to be petty-minded about efforts to sell British industry overseas."

The select committee report is thought to have avoided the question of MPs' responsibilities when faced by direct company or commercial lobbying. It is understood that it calls for stronger controls on the use of parliamentary facilities by lobbyists, the growing army of companies which sells its services as go-betweens in the lucrative business of initiating and changing government policy.

Coal price talks to drag on

By John Lawless

The Central Electricity Generating Board and the National Coal Board are discussing how much coal should be stocked at power stations next year, and how quickly those stocks should be paid for.

The Department of Energy, meanwhile, is determined to see that power stations should not be left vulnerable to any possible future strike action by miners.

The issue - and next year's price of coal, which also has to be settled - is crucial to both state industries. They have had their financial performances totally distorted in the past financial year by pit closures.

Future stocking levels will substantially affect how they appear to recover from the miners' strike and, ultimately, could affect electricity or coal prices paid by the consumer.

But negotiations are so protracted that the size of power station coal stocks, and the price per tonne for the financial year 1986-87, is unlikely to be settled before November.

The CEBG is by far the coal board's biggest customer and is at present taking two million tonnes of coal a week. Mr John Baker, a CEBG board member, said: "We will take every ounce of coal they can deliver to our power stations."

However, although it is using coal at that rate, CEBG stocks will not get back to the pre-strike level of 25 million tonnes by the end of the financial year, next March, he said.

At issue is the level to which they should be raised - and if they need to go as high again, given the increasing role of nuclear power in Britain's electricity-generation programme.

Mr John Utley, the CEBG's director of finance, said that, just before the strike, it was holding six million tonnes of coal above its needs. This had been taken from the coal board as an "accelerated delivery", because the NCB was having difficulty stocking what was then excess production from pits.

Those stocks had not been paid for at the time, he said. The £270 million was handed over as the miners' dispute depleted its stocks.

The cost to the CEBG goes considerably beyond the price it pays for steam coal, discounted as a bulk purchaser, of almost \$45 a tonne.

A detailed breakdown of the cost of the miners' strike to the CEBG will be contained in the board's annual report, to be published on August 1. Executives refused to comment on speculation that it is as high as £2,000 million. It will almost certainly be shown to be much lower in real terms, perhaps about £1,300 million, because, for example, increased oil purchases are balanced by lower coal stock costs.

Mixed reception for N-waste project

By a Staff Reporter

There has been fast and divided reaction in the north of Scotland to the announcement that the Government wishes to build a £200 million nuclear reprocessing plant at Dounreay in Caithness.

The region is one of the strongest supporters of nuclear industry, which has been the main employer in the Thurso, Wick area for more than 25 years.

The news that the reprocessing operation is to be expanded to take waste material from Europe was welcomed by the Caithness District Council and by Mr Robert MacLennan, SDP MP for Caithness and Sutherland.

He said that provided the safeguards against environmental pollution were satisfactory it could be hoped that the project would secure for Britain an important share of the industrial and scientific work on fast reactors.

Mr John Young, chairman of the district council, said that most people actively supported the plant, which would help to secure the future of Dounreay. The nuclear establishment there employs about 2,000 people directly and many more indirectly.

In the Orkney Islands, 25 miles away across the Pentland Firth, the reaction was hostile. Orkney Islands Council said that the expansion of nuclear indus-

try with more discharges into the Firth could damage severely the fishing, fish farming, agricultural and tourist industries in the islands.

Mr Jim Wallace Liberal MP for Orkney and Shetland, said that the plan was unacceptable and demanded a public inquiry. The Orkney Movement also objected on environmental grounds because the Orkney economy depended on pollution-free seas.

Orkadians said that they had not been impressed by the record of the reprocessing plant at Sellafield in Cumbria, and they feared having the same incidents from Dounreay, which they said would have a catastrophic effect on the Orkney Islands.

Mr Clifford Blumfield, director of the Dounreay establishment, said that fuel would arrive from Germany and France and from their own commercial demonstration fast reactor.

It would be reprocessed to a powder form of plutonium and uranium which could then be re-fabricated into new fuel.

He said that the discharges into the sea would be no greater from a much larger reprocessing plant than they were from the existing plant.

He added that the radiation dose to the public from Dounreay was equivalent to about one-twelfth of that discharged from a coal-fired power station.

Police look into lecture tour scheme

By a Staff Reporter

Police are investigating a scheme which promised lucrative overseas lecture tours to academics in Britain. The invitations would have taken them to such places as Hawaii, Barbados and Nice.

Professor Keith Runcorn, a physicist at Newcastle University who is on a lecture tour of the United States, was told in his invitation that he had been selected as a key participant in the "Research Trend Symposium of Geophysics" at an expenses-paid conference in Barbados next September. But the organizers asked for a registration fee of £75 which would be returned.

The invitation was passed to the trading standards department of Tyne and Wear Metropolitan Council, which alerted other areas.

Dismissal of Ulster police chief sought

By a Staff Reporter

The Government was urged yesterday to dismiss Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, in the wake of the dispute that developed after the Provisional IRA killed four officers in a border bomb attack.

Mr Seamus Mallon, deputy leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, accused Sir John of being an arrogant and self-righteous man.

He said that if he would not resign the Government should dismiss him. Sir John, who is appointed by the Northern Ireland Police Authority and not the Government, refused to comment at an Ulster Defence Regiment passing out parade in Co Down on the cross order recriminations.

Air watch on tankers urged

Small spy planes should be used to spot ships who spill oil to cut costs, a Euro MP said today.

Mr Alex Falconer, MEP for Mid Scotland and Fife, wants the European Parliament to bring all main ports into line with the Shetland Islands where every oil tanker within 100

miles of the huge Sullom Voe oil terminal is tracked by an aircraft.

Tankers would be compelled to carry ballast all the time in a third of the holds and to pump out water only at approved treatment plants, to remove the financial incentive to dump ballast when coming into port.

Brecon and Radnor by-election

Vital test of Government's popularity

By Tim Jones

If Labour wins the forthcoming by-election in Brecon and Radnor then the Government will know that it has more than a bout of mid-term discontent in its hands. It will be dealing with a hurricane.

Boundary changes two years ago effectively severed from the constituency 10,000 voters who live in the South Wales Labour heartland. Without them, it has become the kind of sprawling agricultural entity that Conservatives must win if they are to have any hope of enjoying a third term.

The by-election has been caused by the death of Mr Tom Hooson, who first won the seat for the Conservatives in 1979 with a majority of 2,446. He retained it in 1983, increasing his majority to 3,784, a reflection of Mrs Thatcher's popularity and the effect of boundary changes. In that election, only 245 votes separated Labour from the Alliance candidate in third place.

Before 1979, the seat had been held by Labour for 34 years until Mr Caerwyn Roderick lost it in the swing against

his party caused by the so-called winter of discontent.

While Conservative Central Office ponders opinion polls which show them trailing Labour and the Alliance, a split is developing between London and Welsh Tory MPs on when the by-election should be held.

Mrs Thatcher and her advisers are thought to favour an early date, possibly after the Welsh Conservative Party conference in June, which the Prime Minister will use to eulogize the Government's achievements. A quick election, it is argued, would prevent a long and possibly damaging contest into the autumn.

But Welsh Tory MPs, led by Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for the Welsh Office, are pressing for a September or October date in support of the local constituency association which believes its candidate, Mr Christopher Butler, should have plenty of time to get to know one of the largest shale seats in Britain.

The Conservatives can be thankful that the agricultural industry which dominates the constituency is primarily beef and sheep, a factor that will

diminish any protest vote against the imposition of EEC milk quotas.

The Labour Party, whose candidate is Mr Richard Willey, reject the view that boundary changes have ensured it will never recapture the seat. "This is traditionally a Labour seat", Mr Willey said.

Mr Willey has cause to be optimistic. At the recent county elections Labour did well and increased its representation.

Both Labour and the Liberal/SDP Alliance, whose candidate, Mr Richard Livesey, was chosen at the weekend, will attack the Government on unemployment, and intend to make jobs the main issue.

Although Plaid Cymru officials admit in private that the constituency is, for them, a "disaster area", they are to contest the seat.

The only non-affiliated candidate to declare so far is Mr Roger Everest, of Cardiff who will stand as a one Nation Conservative.

General election: T E Hooson (C), 18,255; D Morris (Lab), 9,471; R Livesey (L/All), 9,228; Ms S Meredith (PLC), 640; R Booth (Ind), 278. Con maj 8,784.

Lecturers to seek fresh strike round

By David Jobbins of The Times Higher Education Supplement

College lecturers are to plan a further round of selective strikes beginning in the new academic year in a co-operative campaign with other teacher unions.

Their union is also to take steps to tighten a ban on voluntary duties.

The National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education is pursuing a 20.5 per cent pay claim and its members, who have been involved in one-day strikes, have rejected a 4 per cent offer.

Its annual conference in Plymouth yesterday called for action to be intensified. Delegates supported a plan for organization with the other teacher unions ready for what they believe will be a protracted campaign. Union leaders are also considering ways of extending action, at present mainly a ban on overtime and a refusal to cover for absent colleagues, to other duties.

Those may include a refusal to co-operate with collection of student fees.

Proposals for selective strikes are to be brought before the union's national council in July.

The National Association of Head Teachers, Britain's biggest head teacher union with 21,000 members, is to decide at a private session of its annual conference, which opens at Scarborough tomorrow, whether to throw open its membership to deputy heads.

Legion call for N-test payments

The Royal British Legion annual conference at Brighton yesterday passed an emergency resolution urging the Government to pay compensation to ex-servicemen who claim they have suffered from the effects of radiation from British nuclear tests in the Pacific.

Policeman is given bail

Alwyn Robert Sawyer, aged 44, a Merseyside police sergeant, of Eamont Avenue, Southport, appeared before magistrates at Southport on Saturday charged with the murder of Henry Foley aged 67, a pensioner, of Pitt Street, Southport, in police custody on February 12.

Mr Sawyer was remanded on unconditional bail until June 28.

River scheme to entice birds

Work has started on a scheme to entice the Kingfisher to the heart of Birmingham by improving seven miles of the river Cole from the city centre to the outskirts.

The Scheme, to provide riverside pools and wet areas, overhanging greenery and possibly new banks is being mounted by Birmingham and Solihull councils, the West Midlands County Council and the Severn - Trent Water Authority.

Women fill cells

Police cells in the Thames Valley were yesterday full with women who invaded Greenham Common airbase. The 82 women, who refused to give their names to police, were held in detention cells at stations in Reading, Slough, Windsor, High Wycombe, Oxford, Didcot and Abingdon. Most were expected to appear in court at Newbury today.

Prisoner dies

John Jackson, aged 18, a prisoner at Wallingborough Youth Custody Centre, collapsed and died yesterday during a training run for the centre's sports day. He was sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court to 30 months, youth custody last year for unlawful wounding and grievous bodily harm.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia \$25, Belgium 8 fr 80, Canada \$27, Denmark 42 kr 10, France 100 fr 200, Germany 100 DM 250, Greece 120 dr 250, Ireland 100 Ir 250, Italy 100 L 250, Japan 100 Yen 250, New Zealand 100 NZ 250, Norway 100 Nkr 250, Portugal 100 Esc 250, Spain 100 Ptas 250, Sweden 100 S 250, Switzerland 100 Sfr 250, Taiwan 100 NT 250, Thailand 100 B 250, Turkey 100 L 250, USA 100 C 250, USSR 100 R 250, Yugoslavia 100 D 250.

Fear that jet project may restart in US

From Richard Ford Belfast

Coming two years after the De Lorean debacle, the collapse of the Lear Fan aircraft project, another joint British-American enterprise, is a big embarrassment to the Government and a blow to the image of Northern Ireland.

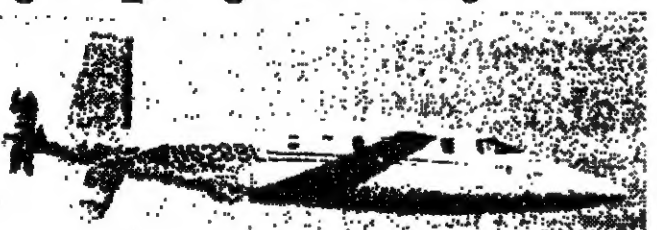
It had been hoped that the executive jet project could provide 2,800 jobs in the United Kingdom's worst unemployment area but instead the saga has highlighted for the second time in two years the danger of investing large amounts of public money into high-risk technological ventures.

Already government strategy in the province has altered with increasing emphasis on encouraging small business to develop rather than backing grandiose schemes promising larger spin-offs in employment. Industrial support is made available only for projects for which substantial finance is provided by the private sector and the Government will argue that Lear Fan is in this category as private investment has put more than \$100 million (£80 million) into the scheme.

The decision by the Lear Fan board to cease trading came after the 10-seat executive jet failed recent certification tests carried out by the US Federal Aviation authority. With cash running out, the directors had little alternative but to end work on the jet. Make of carbon fibres and powered by two engines driven by a single rear-mounted propeller, it had been hailed as the "plastic aeroplane".

Two hundred workers at the firm's plant in Reno, Nevada, will lose their jobs along with the 27 remaining at plants in Newtownabbey and Antrim in Northern Ireland. These had never employed more than 400 people and in the past few months suspicions grew that instead of producing the plane the two plants would never do anything more than supply parts to be shipped to the US for assembly.

It is understood that Northern Ireland's industrial develop-



The ill-fated Lear Fan "plastic aircraft".

Timetable of events

Mid-70s: William Lear thinks up idea of a revolutionary jet.

1977: Lear sets out specifications for aircraft.

1978: Lear dies; Moya, his wife promises to carry on the project.

1980: February: Conservative Government gives financial help with the prospect of jobs in Northern Ireland when aircraft is produced by mid-1982.

1981: January: First prototype on schedule; April: chief executive resigns and joins rival Beechcraft firm.

1982: Summer: Project exceeds budget and is behind schedule. Britain provides additional financing of \$35 million. Re-financing agreement brings in Zoyia Consortium providing \$60 million of private investment. Company restructured with the Government shareholding reduced from option to acquire 40 per cent of authorized share capital to 5 per cent stake; Saudis take 85 per cent.

1983: February: Technical problems in gearbox lead to 100 laid off at Reno and prediction that it will get certificate of airworthiness by January 1986; May: Company decides to cease trading.

1984: January: Total of 94 workers laid off in N. Ireland; February: Three-day week for 380 workers in province; April: Two-day week for N. Ireland workers, company's director of operations leaves Learfan and N. Ireland, further test failures and delays; May: Total of 45 redundancies in N. Ireland; October: Authorization for test flights from US Federal Aviation Authority; December: Saudi backers provide more finance.

1985: February: Technical problems in gearbox lead to 100 laid off at Reno and prediction that it will get certificate of airworthiness by January 1986; May: Company decides to cease trading.

ment board holds certain rights to the design and prototype for six months and there is concern that once this period is over the project could begin again in the US without the overheads of the development costs.

The collapse of Lear Fan brought angry criticism of government strategy from politicians, although elsewhere there was a sense of resignation from a province which has 20.9 per cent unemployment.

The politicians pointed out what could have been done with £57 million given to the project since Mr Humphrey Atkin, then Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, agreed to back the

partnership, arranged by a New York firm which raised private investment cash, 6 per cent; Learfan, owned by the estate of Mr Bill Lear, 3 per cent; widow 1 per cent.

1983: November: Failures develop in simulated tests.

1984: January: Total of 94 workers laid off in N. Ireland; February: Three-day week for 380 workers in province; April: Two-day week for N. Ireland workers, company's director of operations leaves Learfan and N. Ireland, further test failures and delays; May: Total of 45 redundancies in N. Ireland; October: Authorization for test flights from US Federal Aviation Authority; December: Saudi backers provide more finance.

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dream of aviation pioneer Mr William Lear in 1980 as part of increasingly desperate attempts to attract investment to the province.

Mr Fraser Agnew, Official Unionist Assembly member for South Antrim, said: "We can only hope that following De Lorean the Government will now perhaps learn the lesson that instead of pumping millions into high-risk US projects, money would be better used tapping the entrepreneurial skills of local people."

But it was Mr Terry Carlin, of the Irish congress of trade unions who demanded a

Commons inquiry into the affair which, although it has not raised suspicions of misappropriation of funds, has raised the question of whether there is sufficient government control when such large amounts of public money are being spent.

"It was predictable I will be asking the public accounts committee to find out why the Government have continued to fund this company for the last two years when it was clear there was not a snowball's chance in hell of getting anything like the number of jobs promised," he said.

The Government has been told of the decision to cease trading but Dr Rhodes Boyson, Minister of State for Northern Ireland, will not comment until a further company statement has been issued in the US.

There will be deep dismay among officials at this latest setback though it was recognized that there were risks and that chances have to be taken if jobs are to come to the province.

But the words of Mr Adam Butler, the former industry minister, now haunt his successors, for he said of Lear Fan that it was no Dr Lorean "except in so far as it might not succeed".

Where the Lear Fan project differed from the DeLorean sports car dream is that private investors have sunk more than \$100 million in an attempt to realize one man's dream. The jet was the inspiration of Mr Lear who had been responsible for one of the world's most successful executive jets and in the 1970s conceived the idea of developing an aircraft, using carbon fibres.

The Government provided an additional \$35 million and assisted in refinancing operation in which two groups competed to become involved. Under this agreement the Zoyia Corporation a consortium led by American Mr Bob Burch and two Saudi princes put up \$60 million as Britain insisted that for every pound of public money two pounds must be provided by private investment.

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Debenhams set to expand home sales chain after success of £95 package

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

The home centres in Debenhams stores, where a house owner can set a home for £95 plus VAT, are set for expansion after the success of the first six. The chain store, which has opened five home centres since the first at Guildford last July, is expecting to provide another five by the end of this year and a further 15 in 1986.

In the next two months, the company plans two at Southampton and Bristol, followed by Croydon and probably Chelmsford and Bournemouth by the end of the year.

Since opening, the home-centres have completed transactions worth £24 million and have sold six out of every 10 properties placed with them.

Mr Christie-Miller, operations director for Debenhams home-centres, says the home-centres are an example of enterprise which works because it provides customers with the service they want. For the estate agents who are losing business, it is a serious matter.

At their Harrow store, they get an average of 20 instructions a week, selling an average of 12, while some of the local agents have to be satisfied with two or three.

Every vendor and every buyer who registers with them is entitled to a 5 per cent discount on carpets, furniture and soft furniture from the stores. Other benefits are available. It is a

More export frauds suspected by police

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Detectives and Whitehall officials investigating frauds based on payment by the Export Credit Guarantee Department have uncovered a new group of suspicious companies or projects which may take the department's losses well into many millions of pounds.

In the past few months, department sources have put the loss from fraud at about £2 million, but, according to a source close to Whitehall last week, the real figure is considerably more than £10 million.

That could rise first as investigations begin sifting details of companies or overseas projects which have surfaced after research by the department's own staff or City of London detectives.

The ECGD will this week start examining its records for details of companies trading with Nigeria which have aroused police suspicions. The department has also asked police to check the background to several projects for which claims were met. The companies and projects go back at least several years.

No one is yet prepared to hazard a guess at the final size of the fraud but even an estimated figure may not show the true extent of the fraudsters' work. There is suspicion that a number of City institutions handling trade finance could also have been caught and have yet to complain to the police, possibly because of ignorance or embarrassment.



Horse play: Zara Phillips with Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips at Windsor Horse Trials on Saturday. Report, page 15 (Photograph: Julian Herbert)

Juvenile crime is falling, report says

Recorded juvenile crime is falling, according to a report published today by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders.

The report, *Juvenile Crime*, shows that in 1983 the number of known juvenile offenders in England and Wales was 10 per cent less than in 1974.

A total of 167,900 juvenile offenders under 17, were cautioned or sentenced for indictable offences in 1983. The number of known juvenile offenders rose steeply during the 1950s and 1960s, but fluctuated during the 1970s.

In the past few years there has been a levelling off, and the 10 per cent decrease compared with a steady increase in the number of young adult offenders aged 17 to 20, up 40 per cent from 1974 to 1983, and adult offenders aged 21 and above, up 36 per cent.

The drop in juvenile crime may partly reflect a drop in the juvenile population the report says, but the drop since 1974 has been sharper than the fall in the juvenile population.

The peak age for offending remains at 15 for males and 14 for females.

The report shows that most juvenile crime is minor and non-violent: only 8 per cent of indictable offences committed by juveniles involve violence, sex or robbery.

Most juvenile offences are of theft and handling stolen goods, which accounted for 61 per cent of offences committed by boys and 86 per cent by girls in 1983.

There has been an increasing use of custody for juveniles, and the use of social work supervision for delinquents has declined.

The report says that there is growing evidence that intermediate treatment - counselling and training - can be more effective than other measures in reducing re-offending.

Juvenile Crime, (MACRO, 160 Clapham Road, London, SW9, free).

Fun-packed BR litter campaign

British Rail will today distribute 50,000 fun packs containing games, competitions and colouring sets to children at many stations as part of an anti-litter campaign.

The sets are designed to reinforce the campaign's message. BR is contributing to the national "Beautiful Britain" scheme organized by Keep Britain Tidy.

Another part of the BR campaign will be to make all stations in Cornwall litter-free zones. At present more than 70 stations in England and Wales meet the standards agreed by BR and Keep Britain Tidy for "litter-free" status.

Mr Ivor Warburton, BR's director of passenger marketing services, said: "Litter is anti-social and ruins the environment for everyone. We want people who drop litter on our stations to feel guilty."

BR has increased the number of litter bins at stations and is introducing "heavy-cleaning gangs" to tackle dirt and grime.

unlike unless the company's difficulties persist. Sinclair Research has said that the cash difficulties are temporary and that after a bad Christmas and a bad early new year sales are back to former levels, with the company's share of the home computer market still at 40 per cent.

In March Sinclair said that pre-tax profits, for the nine months to the end of December were £7.9 million: well below what was expected in the City and the £14.3 million reported for the whole of the previous year.

Full year results due to be announced next month are expected to show further big provisions for stock write-offs.

Production of the QL small business computer by Thorn-EMI and of the Spectrum Home Micro by Timex have been reduced to less than 5,000 a week.

The QL which Sinclair launched last year has since sold only 60,000, little more than half the original target.

Sir Clive Sinclair's separate venture for making C5 electric vehicles, in which he has invested £7 million of his own money, has also fallen well short of initial sales targets and production of the 15mph tri-cycle at the Hoover plant in Mether Tydfil, South Wales, has been reduced to 100 a week.

There were persistent suggestions in the stock market last week that Thorn-EMI would launch a takeover for Sinclair Research, and although this has not yet been ruled out it seems unlikely unless the company's difficulties persist.

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Cash flow threat to Sinclair managers

By Jeremy Warner

Sir Clive Sinclair is expected to come under renewed pressure from the City to strengthen Sinclair Research by making changes in top management after the disclosure at the weekend that the microcomputers company has run into cash flow difficulties.

As reported in *The Times* on Saturday, Thorn-EMI, which manufactures Sinclair computers under contract, has given the company a two-month extension of its credit lines to help to tide it over the cash crisis.

Timex, Sinclair's other main supplier, has also agreed to extend credit worth several million pounds for a further two months.

Sir Clive has been criticized for lack of management expertise in spite of his acknowledged talents as an inventor and entrepreneur, and it is expected that he will be forced to listen to the pleas for new management.

Investors who paid £13.6 million for a 10 per cent stake in Sinclair Research two years ago.

Sources close to the company said there could be an announcement within a month.

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Sprinkler check

Sprinkler patrols are to make spot checks on homes in the eastern counties this summer in an effort to catch people watering their gardens without an £18 annual licence.

Anglian Water, which has 1.95 million customers between the Humber and the Thames, estimates that it has been losing £2 million a year because of licence dodgers.

Robin Day back

Sir Robin Day, aged 61, will return to television screens on June 6 for the first time since undergoing heart surgery three months ago, when he chairs *Question Time* on BBC 1.

Some Co-op shops 'a disgrace'

From Derek Harris, Commercial Editor, Bournemouth

Some retail Co-operative Societies have shops and services which are a "literal disgrace" smearing the rest of the Co-operative movement, Mr George Bromley said in his presidential speech at the opening in Bournemouth yesterday of the Co-operative Congress the annual parliament of the movement.

Mr Bromley, a retired Trade union official who is president of Leicestershire Co-operative Society one of the most successful of the top 10 retail Co-operatives, also called for a new national strategy to revive the fortunes of the Co-op.

In some Societies assets built over generations were being sold off to prop up disastrous trading results, he said, and called on the movement to consider making directors of societies more accountable.

Director decision-making in building societies was being looked at closely, he said, and added: "If we refuse to stop the ever-increasing losses of our

assets then it may not be too far in the future when we may be forced to do so by outside bodies."

Activists willing to work and campaign could get themselves elected to retail societies no matter that they had weird and wonderful ideas on how to run a society, he said.

He added: "Are we not seeing today the great tragedy of our democratic organization, built on high ideals for the good of all, being taken over for the good of the few?"

Clue to coastal erosion

By John Young

A Lancaster University lecturer claims to have identified the cause of the severe erosion along the Humberside coast.

Dr Aden Pringle, senior lecturer in geography, attributes the damage, which over the centuries has led to the disappearance of whole villages and much top quality farm land, to something known in local

dialect as an ord. An ord is a hollow carved out of the beach by the action of the waves and tides which moves southward along the base of the cliffs at the rate of about 550 yards a year. At any one time, according to Dr Pringle, there are as many as 10 ords burrowing along the coast from the southern end of Bridlington Bay to Spurn Head.

The Co-op's trouble was that it did not have the will to change, Mr Bromley said, and added: "But change we must."

It should be possible for the Co-op to think and act nationally, he said.

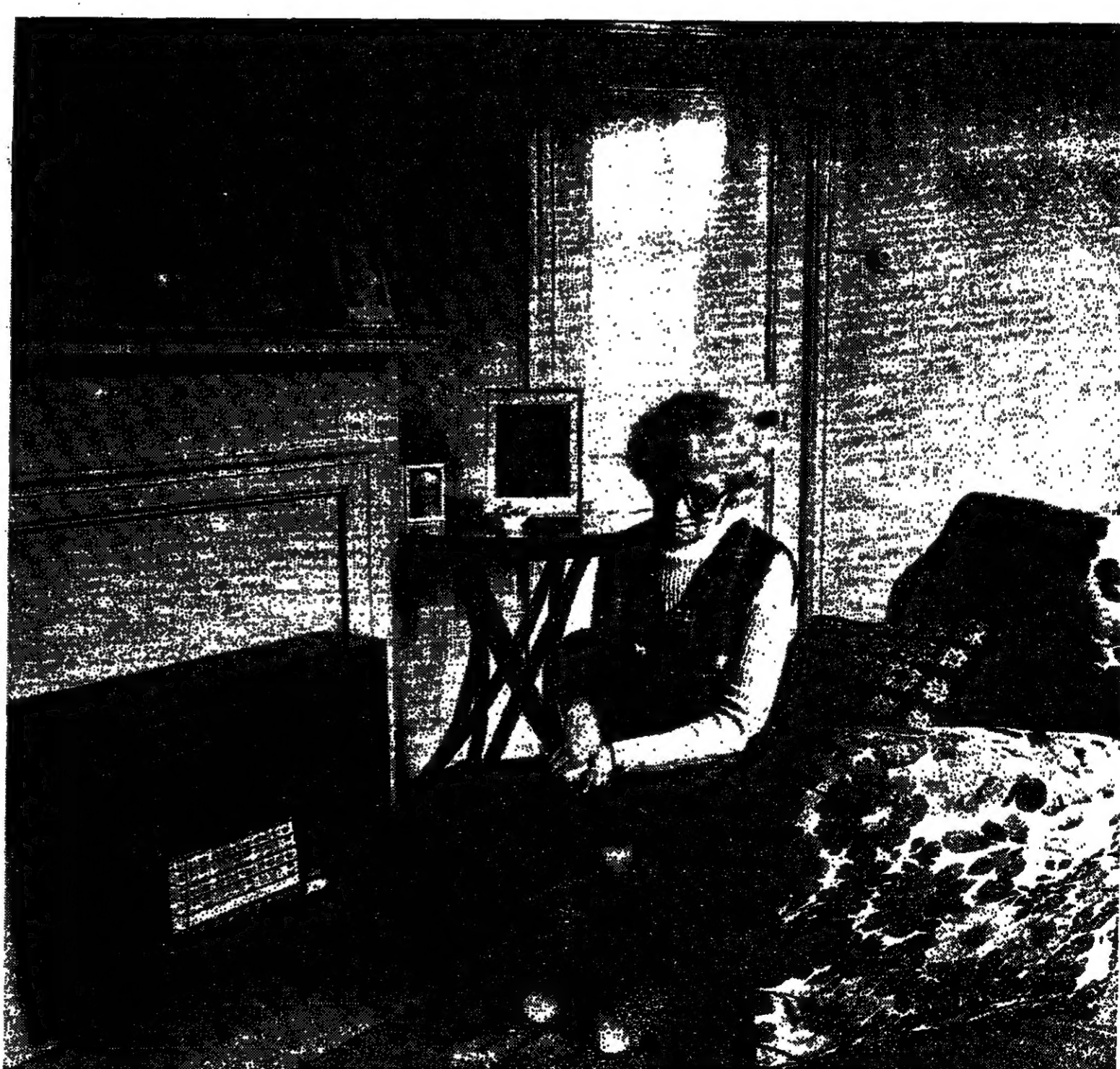
That touched on one of the Co-op's biggest difficulties: the number of retail societies has dropped sharply, but there are still 100 of them in spite of a congress policy for a reduction to 25 big regional societies.

Mr Bromley went on: "Given a real look at national strategy - new ideas, new methods of using the assets, the buildings we already have - why should we not new trading systems be pioneered? It may not be another national chain but our competitors are not standing still, so neither should we."

Once there were basic strategies for large-scale trading as the norm the Co-op might, if it was not already too late, develop a rational plan for the acquisition and development of superstore sites, he said.

We have yet to match the efficiency of these competitors."

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The Royal United Kingdom Beneficent Association, 6 Avonmore Road, London W14 8RL. Tel: 01-602 6274.

RUKBA

Helping disabled people: 1 More successes than failures for handicapped

In the first of three articles marking the fifteenth anniversary of the passing of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act, RICHARD DOWDEN examines the Act's achievements.

Fifteen years ago this week disabled people were given a statutory right to be provided with whatever they needed to cope with their disability.

The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act was proclaimed a charter for the disabled. Within five years of the Act's enactment the number of people registered as disabled by local authorities doubled and they were provided with assistance ranging from hearing aids to home helps and holidays.

The Act got into orbit almost miraculously after Mr Alfried Morris, Labour MP for Wythenshawe, won the ballot for private members' Bills. As he was putting the details together a general election was called, shortening the already meagre time he had for drafting. The Conservatives, who won the 1970 election, let it be known that they would support the Bill, and it was the last piece of legislation passed by that parliament.

Its scope affected 12 government departments, something no government-sponsored Bill would have dared to attempt. With the help of the Ombudsman's ruling, it survived a Department of Health and Social Security circular which tried to bring it to earth, but without full government support its implementation was sometimes half-hearted. The main provisions are that:

- Local authorities must find out the disabled in their area, assess their needs and provide them.
- The authorities should provide house adaptations, telephones, meals, holidays, travel and home helps for disabled people and any other aids to assist them.
- There should be more special

housing for disabled people and access to public buildings for them, helped by appropriate facilities and notices.

Disabled people should serve on local and national advisory committees dealing with disability.

Young disabled and sick people should be accommodated separately from elderly disabled in hospitals.

Vehicles for disabled people should be allowed on footpaths and they should have badges exempting from parking restrictions.

An institute for hearing research should be established and special education provided for deaf, blind and autistic children.

Most local authorities carried out some form of survey and the register, which stood at fewer than 300,000 in 1970 grew to 1.25 million in 1982.

Mr Peter Mitchell of the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, says that the number of services rocketed in the first few years until inflation and then cuts began to bite. He points to the success of the orange badge scheme for disabled drivers, the appointment of handicapped people to the disability committees and the hearing institute as some of the Act's other main successes.

But perhaps the Act's greatest success was greater than the sum of the services provided. It was the creation of a new climate in which government, local and national, had to put disability higher up the agenda. Mr Morris's own appointment as the first minister for the disabled in 1974 was perhaps the greatest example of this. Tomorrow: The failure to implement the Act.

Iraqi jets shatter six-week lull

Bahrain (Reuters) - Iran said its warplanes yesterday attacked the Iraqi town of al-Amarah in retaliation for a series of air raids and missile attacks on Iranian cities.

The national news agency Irna said the Iranian planes all returned after raiding the town, which lies on the main highway from Baghdad to southern Iraq.

Earlier, Iraq had launched major attacks on Iranian cities, breaking a six-week undeclared truce in the 36-month-old Gulf war after the assassination attempt on the Amir of Kuwait.

After a pre-dawn air raid on Tehran, which Iran said killed at least six people, and a later raid on "The Dens of the Misguided Ones" in the western city of Ilam, the Iraqis sent waves of fighter-bombers against six Iranian towns, according to an Iraqi communiqué.

They then fired long-range missiles into the western Iranian towns of Bakhtaran (formerly Kermanshah) and Islamabad-e-Gharb, destroying "selected targets", the communiqué said.

Iran confirmed most of the attacks but said they were against residential areas. It said at least six, and possibly up to 10 people died in Tehran, and 15 in the west, but that it was too early to know the toll from the missile attacks.

Iraq said waves of between four and 10 fighter-bombers hit the Iranian towns of Sar-e-Pol-e-Zahab, Gilan-e-Gharb and Dehloran as well as military bases in Banah, Khaman and Marivan. It did not specify what "selected targets" were chosen.

Kuwait hunt for clues to bomber

Kuwait (Reuters) - Kuwait reopened its borders yesterday as security forces sought to discover the identity of a suicide car bomber who failed in an assassination attempt on the Amir on Saturday.

Four people including the attacker were killed when he crashed his car, laden with explosives, into a motor procession on the city waterfront. The Amir, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah, aged 59, escaped with scratches from flying glass.

A government spokesman said the Cabinet reviewed the situation yesterday and an emergency security committee led by the Interior Minister, Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Gabib, discussed clues to the identity of the bomber. A number of people were said to be undergoing interrogation by the police.

The attack prompted Iraqi air and missile attacks on Iranian centres, with Baghdad claiming it was retaliation.

An anonymous caller claiming to represent the Islamic Jihad group, demanding the release of 16 prisoners held in Kuwait for involvement in 1983 bomb blasts, claimed responsibility for the attack.

The car bomb, estimated to have contained the equivalent of 220lb of TNT, killed two guards who were buried yesterday.



Wall of death: Campers and rescuers stand around all that remains of a caravan after the disaster.

Collapsing wall kills 11 campers

From Our Correspondent Paris

At least 11 people were killed and six injured when a wall, apparently damaged by heavy rain, collapsed on trailers and tents at a camp site in the south of France yesterday. Five children were among the dead.

The wall, about 15ft high and 90ft long, gave way at about 8am, as the campers slept. All the victims belonged to a group of about 30 who had come to the camp site in St Cyr, near Toulon to spend the Pentecost long weekend scuba diving.

The tents and trailers at the foot of the wall were crushed under blocks of stone that weighed several tons. Most of

the other 300 people in the camp helped to remove the victims from the debris, using cars to pull away the rocks.

"The ground began to tremble", said M. Ludovic Salon, a Parisian, who had decided not to pitch his tent near the wall because of mud in the area.

"I ran out of my tent and it was like a nightmare. Trailers and tents were completely covered with rocks and gravel in a horrendous roar. I had the feeling that the whole hill was going to crumble."

The privately owned camp site, which has room for 2,000 people, is built on two levels. It was to prevent the stairways and dirt terraces that lead to

the upper portion from crumbling, that the wall was built last winter.

The Var region, where the camp site is, has been hard hit by rain in recent days, and it was apparently a combination of water and erosion that shifted the wall and weakened it.

Families of the victims accused the wall's builder of shoddy work and some said they had noticed cracks in the cement when they arrived at the campsite.

A police officer from Toulon, which, with Marseille and Bagnols sent firemen and other emergency workers to the disaster scene, said he could

not confirm that the wall had been cracked.

Volunteers cried: About 175 firemen, gendarmes and civil defence workers went to the scene.

The scene at the wall looked much like the aftermath of an earthquake. Large chunks of masonry and metal buried several people and pinned others to the ground. Family members and volunteers shouted and cried as they frantically worked to dig out the victims.

"This wall was built last winter to avoid just such an accident because children had a tendency to play on the sandy hillside and risked falling", said Aime Joly.

Sudan rebel leader rejects deal with junta

Nairobi (AFP) - Colonel John Garang, leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, rejected any agreement with the new military-led regime in Khartoum and called on Sudanese to continue to struggle for "complete victory".

In an address over the southern movement's radio, he said that the junta which ousted President Nimeiry had no intention of handing over power or holding elections. He called on all sectors of Sudanese society to join a national struggle led by his army and the organization's political wing, the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, for a democratic society.

Dissidents freed

Dhaka (Reuters) - Bangladesh's top opposition leaders Sheikh Hasina Wazed and Begum Khatun Zia, were freed from house arrest after a promise by President Ershad that he would revive political activity. The two women were put under house arrest when General Ershad reimposed martial law in March.

Tragic outing

Nairobi (AFP) - As many as 30 children are believed to have died when a vehicle carrying them home from a music and drama festival crashed into a heavy goods lorry in the Kericho district of Kenya's Rift Valley province. One hospital was reported to have admitted 30 other pupils in critical condition.

Killer mine

Manila (AFP) - Twelve gold prospectors were feared dead and 47 trapped after a series of makeshift mining tunnels collapsed in the southern island of Mindanao, the Philippine News Agency reported.

RSPB calls for action on wetlands

By A Staff Reporter

The Government has been criticised for its "grudging and minimalist" approach to an important international conservation treaty to which Britain was one of the first signatories.

In its *Birds* magazine, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds notes that of 129 potential wetland sites suitable for protection under the 1971 Ramsar Convention on wetlands of international importance, especially as waterfowl habitat, only 19 have been listed in spite of a promise by the UK delegate, at a meeting of signatories last year, to bring most of the outstanding sites under the protective net by 1986.

Of the 19 listed sites, only eight are of importance to waterfowl, and "key sites such as The Wash, Morecambe Bay and the Swale remain unlisted". Britain has also been dilatory in its observance of the European Community's Birds Directive, which requires notification of Special Protection Areas, the RSPB says. About 151 potential SPA sites have been identified, but only seven notified.

New way to help pandas breed

By Tony Samstag

A new technique for inseminating giant pandas artificially could revolutionize attempts to breed the notoriously unprolific species in captivity. Mr John Knight, London zoo's veterinary officer, has said.

The new method, developed by Mr Knight in collaboration with Chinese scientists in Szechuan province, involves using an operating telescope, originally designed for the human kidney, to implant sperm directly into the uterus without the need for surgery.

So tortuous is the reproductive system of the giant panda, that surgery has been the only previous means of artificial insemination, and success rates have been so low that even the one live birth in 10 expected by Mr Knight with the use of the telescope would be "quite acceptable".

On Saturday Mr Knight was due to fly to Qatar in the Gulf, where he is on a year's secondment to manage the futuristic Doha zoo, in the development of which the Zoological Society of London has been closely involved.

The Sun criticized for 'Little Hitler' headline

The *Sun* is criticized by the Press Council today for describing a former traffic warden as a "Little Hitler".

Mr John Hancock, of Selwyn Close, Old Basford, Nottingham, had complained that it was improper of *The Sun* to use the "Little Hitler" headline to an unbalanced report about his domestic affairs.

The newspaper ran a story headlined "Little Hitler John is sacked as a grandad" with the subsidiary headline "Meanie ignored toddlers". It reported that a "Little Hitler" traffic warden, who had been dismissed for booking too many motorists, was rejected again... as a grandfather.

His son, Arthur, had advertised for new grandparents for his children. It reported that the son said his father showed no interest in his two grandchildren.

The report said that Mr Hancock had booked 17,000 motorists in 15 years before being dismissed a year earlier.

He was quoted as saying the trouble was his son's fault.

Mr Kenneth Donlan, managing editor, said the "Little Hitler" tag was used to describe the style of duty Mr Hancock performed as a traffic warden, and the term "Little Hitler" had been used in another report concerning Mr Hancock in *The Sun* four months earlier. The newspaper was at a loss to understand Mr Hancock's sudden objections.

Another of Mr Hancock's sons, Phillip, and his daughter, Ida, sent statements to the council saying that he was a good grandfather.

The Press Council's adjudication was: Although the epithet "Little Hitler" had been applied to the complainant as a traffic warden, its use in the headline and introduction to this story of a disreputable domestic situation was inappropriate. In the Press Council's view it created an unacceptable degree of imbalance in the report.

To this extent the complaint against *The Sun* is upheld.

Loneliness is just one problem

And it is a fairly common problem for seafarers away from home for months at a time. But it is only one of the troubles that people bring to us. As a Christian society working among seafarers we are asked for all kinds of help - spiritual, emotional, social and practical. And we are there, ready to give all the help we can, in all parts of the world.

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The Missions to Seamen
St Michael Paternoster Royal, College Hill,
London EC4R 2RL

Senate clears space test of anti-satellite weapons

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The Reagan Administration has been given Senate clearance to begin testing anti-satellite weapons in space in the summer.

The first of three firings, from an F15 aircraft, is planned for July. The tests are seen by the Administration as another vital element in keeping up pressure on the Soviet Union at the Geneva arms control talks. Russia is believed already to have a limited ability to destroy satellites in space.

A year-long congressional ban on the tests expired on March 1. Many senators sought its extension, arguing that voluntary restraint by both sides in anti-satellite weapons

testing had proved effective. Critics of the ban said it ensured that the Soviet Union kept its lead in the field.

The Senate, in a 51-35 vote, provided a maximum of \$85 million (\$65 million) for these anti-satellite weapons. It also allocated \$15 million for future purchase and almost \$150 million for research and development of the weapons.

The measure still has to survive the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives, but the mood appears to be more flexible now that President Reagan's MX missile anti-satellite program has been so substantially scaled down.

warehouses and other stores are full to bursting.

In addition the number of tourists visiting the island has dropped dramatically. Though the winter season in the south and west has not been too bad, the coming season when interest shifts to the east coast seems marked for disaster.

In the leading resort hotel in Batticaloa district only two tourists were staying last weekend. No better results were shown from a random check of other hotels in the area. The activities of the insurgents there, and the conviction of intercommunal rioting between Muslims and Tamils, have ensured that no visitor to the area could feel fully safe. Tourism, which used to be the third biggest earner of foreign exchange, has now slumped to seventh or eighth position.

Other affected sectors, according to expert observers, are the textile and the rice industries.

Envoy's letter may herald Delhi-Colombo summit

From a Correspondent, Colombo

India's new High Commissioner in Sri Lanka, Mr J. N. Dixit, who arrived in Colombo yesterday, is said to be carrying a personal letter from Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, to give to President Jayewardene when he presents his credentials today.

There is speculation in Colombo that the letter carries a formal invitation to President Jayewardene to visit Delhi and that the visit may take place before Mr Gandhi leaves for a US visit June 6.

The call by prominent Buddhist monks to talk to the Indian Government, and if necessary even the Sri Lankan

Tamil militants in Tamil Nadu, has strengthened President Jayewardene's hand. Earlier it was felt that any attempt to set leaders would be viewed with suspicion by hardliners among the Sinhalese, especially the Buddhist priests.

The letter is also thought to spell out guidelines for the summit.

Meanwhile, the Government is investigating the reported killing of 13 Tamil civilians, allegedly by security forces in the north-east. Eight civilians are alleged to have been killed at Fankulam, near the coastal town of Trincomalee.

Whatever attacks we face from terrorists it is also our paramount duty to keep economic development going at all costs... If economic development stops, the chaos that will ensue all over Sri Lanka is something too terrible to contemplate.

President Jayewardene made it clear the day after Mr De Mel's speech was published that the Government intends to spend as much as the armed forces need to carry on the fight against the separatists.

Observers feel that there is likely to be a balance-of-payments problem as well as a budget deficit problem before too long. However, the Sri Lankan economy, thanks to several good growing seasons after a series of bad ones, and thanks to some skilled management of the economy, has kept the inflation rate down to zero. Though it is likely to rise soon as a result of the crisis, the Government is confident it will keep it within single figures.

European notebook A sinking feeling in Nato navies

With an admiral caught taking backhanders of shower curtains and fruit knives for nuclear submarine contracts and a rating accused of spying on a nuclear aircraft carrier, it has been a bad time for the public image of the US Navy.

But Admiral Wesley McDonald has been doing his best to bolster it. Now is a very mean time for inter-service rivalry and the Navy sees itself in real danger of becoming not so much the silent as the forgotten service.

Admiral McDonald is SACRAMINT - the supreme allied commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. As he sees it, "The alliance was basically formed for safeguarding the freedom of the use of the seas".

But at this stage of dwindling support for defence budgets, the admiral is privately very worried that the money to do his job is being diverted more and more into the air, into space and on to the land. The internal battle in Nato on priorities is hotting up.

This will come more and more into the open after last week's approval by the Nato defence ministers of a blueprint for developing conventional forces.

The admiral is a very conventional navy man who loves aircraft carriers and who has nightmares about bringing supplies across a submarine-infested North Atlantic with too few escort ships.

As he sees it, the big aircraft carrier is the best ultimate weapon. Had Britain had one off the Falklands, the chances of Super-Endavours getting through with Exocet missiles would have been slim. From the air, he believes, the Navy rules OK.

Like all Nato commanders these days, the admiral is an excellent and deliberate scaremonger. The Soviet threat, he produces the figures to show, is growing all the time. Russia's Navy is developing its new technology to match the West's. It has grown up in a decade from a coastal defence force to a worldwide navy capable of operating.

He is sure the best way of countering the threat is by building aircraft carriers and attack submarines.

And he seems to know he cannot win the argument because the capital cost of the sort of ships he wants will terrify the finance ministers and parliaments of most Alliance countries.

He bemoans the fact that his Soviet counterpart, after 28 years in the same job, has obviously got much less difficulty in persuading the Kremlin to provide the money he needs.

The paradox is that Nato commanders believe they fail in their job if they make the people feel peaceful and free. They only get the kind of finances they want by scaring the taxpayers into paying up protection money.

Ian Murray

ISRAEL'S WAR IN LEBANON

Tomorrow in the Times

● On June 6 1982 Israeli forces invaded Lebanon in an operation designed to bring peace and security to Israel's northern border.

● Three years later most of the troops have been withdrawn, none of the original aims achieved.

● In a major three-part series starting tomorrow with a despatch from Robert Fisk *The Times* explains how it all went wrong.

Seoul students win moral victory as sit-in ends peacefully at US office

From David Watts, Seoul

South Korean students, tied together in pairs and denouncing the "military dictatorship", gave up their occupation of the US Information Service offices in Seoul yesterday with hardly a concession from three days of negotiations which US Embassy officials but with an undoubted moral and propaganda victory.

The 73 students, who looked scarcely more than children, were immediately forced on to buses by security men and taken away.

The peaceful resolution of the occupation was tribute to skilled American diplomacy and public restraint by the South Korean Government.

The US Ambassador, Mr Richard Walker, deplored the occupation at a press conference but said he was gratified that the siege, fraught with tension, had ended with dialogue and conciliation rather than violence.

In a none-too-subtle hint to the Government of President Chun Doo Hwan, which the US is pressing to become more liberal, he said: "The settlement of this incident through quiet negotiation and reason can serve as an example for all concerned... It should be noted that throughout the period the Government of the Republic of Korea kept in close contact with the American Embassy and displayed quiet restraint."

Transcripts of Radio Pyongyang commentaries of the occupation were shown to them in an attempt to convince them of their value to the communist north. A North Korean delegation arrives in Seoul today to reopen talks on divided families.

The occupation will focus further attention on Kwangju and the President's role in the brutal suppression of protest against his seizure of power in 1980.

The media were banned from referring to Kwangju until the general election last February.

The US negotiators, who conceded the "extreme brutality" with which the Kwangju uprising was quelled, denied that America had had any influence on the deployment of Korean forces at the time, except for the release from the joint command of the 20th Infantry division because of its experience in crowd control. The Americans claim that the unit played a role in lessening the violence in Kwangju.

Mr Walker said that after reviewing documents on Kwangju before taking up his post "I am quite satisfied in my own mind that the US does not bear responsibility or culpability, and in my view the sooner we get that behind us and look to the future the better for us and for all Koreans."



Defiant surrender: Chanting students being pushed on to a bus by security officers in Seoul as the siege ended.

MPs force inquiry into Zia's martial law

From Hasan Akhtar Islamabad

Mr Fakhr Imam, Speaker of the Pakistan National Assembly, yesterday overruled the technical objections of Mr Iqbal Ahmad Khan, the Law Minister, on the opening day of the budget discussion and admitted three privilege motions which in essence seek the immediate repeal of martial law after eight years.

Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, the Prime Minister who said two months ago when sworn in that martial law and democratic government could not co-exist, remained seated and silent as the Law Minister vainly opposed the motions while maintaining that the Government was not opposed to lifting martial law.

The Speaker asked the Leader of the House, an office Mr Junejo holds, to set up a committee to consider the motions and report.

An Islamabad English language daily yesterday claimed that 225 of the 237 assembly members "unanimously" urged Mr Junejo at a meeting on Saturday to ask General Zia Haq to lift martial law immediately.

Newspapers meanwhile have reported three days of disturbances in Karachi which led to five deaths and brought in army patrols to help police maintain order in parts of the Sind capital.

Court quashes sentence

Top dissident wins Polish jail appeal

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Mr Jacek Kuron, one of Poland's leading dissidents, has been celebrating an unexpected victory: Against the odds, a Warsaw court quashed his three-month jail sentence for taking part in Solidarity demonstrations.

Some 50 friends and Solidarity supporters yelled their approval and ran forward to congratulate him when the Warsaw Appeal Court announced its verdict on Saturday.

The police case, drawn up by the prosecutor, and leaning heavily on the evidence of the major who arrested Mr Kuron on May Day, argued that he had refused to obey orders to disperse. Mr Kuron, in his rasping voice, told the court he was merely trying to negotiate a peaceful end to the demonstration and had not heard the command to disperse.

The judge, Mrs Julia Zdunczyk, believed Mr Kuron. "There is no doubt that he took part in the demonstration, but it has not been proved that he disobeyed the police orders."

Although the verdict may give the authorities some problems for a while - another Solidarity leader, Mr Henryk Wujec, is also appealing against his jail term using arguments similar to Mr Kuron's.

Government officials expressed some astonishment at Saturday's verdict, but it serves their propaganda purposes quite well. It will allow the authorities to present the Polish judiciary as genuinely independent and thus pre-empt some of the international criticism of the far more serious trial of three prominent Solidarity activists, Mr Adam Michnik, Mr Wladyslaw Frasyniuk and Mr Bogdan Lis.

Meanwhile, it is understood there have been discreet contacts between the French and Polish authorities over allowing Mr Lech Walesa, the chairman of Solidarity, to visit Paris.

The French Prime Minister, M Laurent Fabius, has publicly urged the Polish authorities to permit Mr Walesa to make the trip. The Solidarity leader, however, wants guarantees that he will be allowed to return to Poland, and not suddenly be stripped of his citizenship. Also he wants to be accompanied by a prominent Solidarity adviser, Professor Bronislaw Geremek.

● COPENHAGEN: Mr Jozef Zimnicki, a former leading member of the Central Committee of the Polish Communist Party, who has been granted political asylum by Denmark with members of his family, is being given board and lodging by the Danish Refugee Aid Organization at the expense of the Danish state (Christopher Follett writes).

Danish intelligence sources disclosed at the weekend that Mr Zimnicki had arrived in Copenhagen in February with his wife, daughter and son-in-law.

Poll debate divides Italian Communists

From John Earle, Rome

The Italian Communist Party has decided that the special three-day Central Committee meeting which ended here on Saturday was not sufficient to map future strategy in the light of the recent local election setbacks. A further session is to be called to examine the debate now set in motion within the party.

The meeting is expected to take place in mid-June, after the results of a Communist-sponsored referendum set for June 9 - assuming it takes place - on restoring Government cuts in cost of living allowances imposed last year on wage and salary earners.

The Government is discussing with employers and union representatives ways to restructure wage and cost of living allowance scales so as to make the referendum superfluous.

At the weekend Central Committee meeting, 68 speakers aired their views on why the Communist vote dropped from an average 35 to 30 per cent, behind the Christian Democrats, and what tactics should be used against the Christian Democrats, Socialists and other parties to regain ground. Another 70 withdrew requests to speak because of lack of time.

The party secretary Signor Alessandro Natta, whose report was approved unanimously, admitted that the Communist claim to offer "a democratic alternative" form a government was not now realistic. He recognized that "diverse and even discordant positions" had emerged in the debate, and said they reflected the richness of ideas within the party.



Signor Natta: Seeking to prevent growth of factions.

He favoured fully the free formation of majority and minority groups in debate on specific problems whenever necessary, but opposed their crystallization into organized factions as other Italian parties.

Frontiers not settled says Bonn Minister

Düsseldorf (Reuters) - The West German Interior Minister, Herr Friedrich Zimmermann, yesterday said that treaties signed with East European countries in the 1970s did not mean that Bonn recognized their post-war boundaries.

Ratification of the frontiers, he said, would have to await the signing of a peace treaty between the four former occupying powers - the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France - and a reunited Germany.

Addressing a rally here of former inhabitants of East Prussia, ceded to the Soviet Union after the war, Herr Zimmermann emphasized that West Germany wished to maintain good relations with Eastern Europe, and in particular respected the wish of the Polish people to live within secure boundaries.

Ancient Mass marks Toledo's 1085 conquest

From Richard Wigg Madrid

Spain yesterday celebrated the 900th anniversary of the reconquest of Toledo from the Moors when Queen Sofia attended a special service in the city's cathedral using the Mozarabic Mass, the rite preserved by Christians during centuries of occupation.

The service used the original text, established after four years of expert study, to mark the culmination of a week-long gathering in Toledo of more than 100 medieval historians from Britain, Europe and the United States.

The theme of the week, highlighted frequently by the historians as Spain prepares to join the Common Market, was Spain's European roots.

Under King Alfonso VI, Toledo blossomed into one of the principal capitals of Europe.

Transfer of Hong Kong to be ratified today

From David Bonavia, Hong Kong

Historic events for both Hong Kong and Macao take place today as the colonies move closer to reunification with the People's Republic of China.

In Peking, British and Chinese officials will exchange instruments of ratification of last year's agreement on the incorporation of Hong Kong into China as a "special administrative region" in 1997.

Meanwhile, Portugal's President Eanes will arrive in Macao and is expected to brief the administration there on his talks in Peking with Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese elder statesman, and other leaders. It is believed that China intends to accept the reversion of Macao to Chinese sovereignty as another "special administrative region" near to, or on, the same date as Hong Kong.

Peking has promised that Hong Kong will enjoy 50 years of capitalism and British-style laws after 1997, and a similar arrangement is expected for

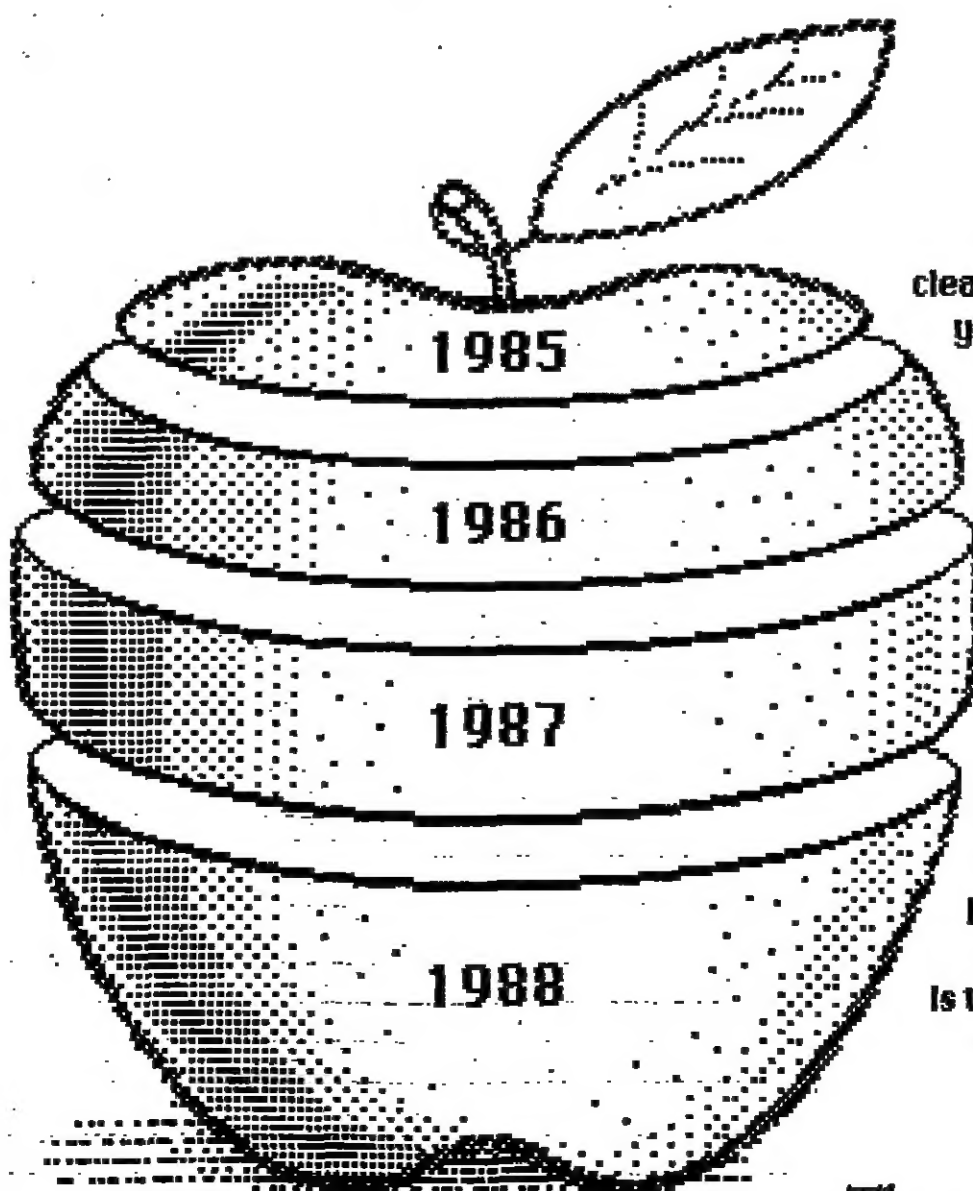
Macao. It is unclear, however, whether the tiny Portuguese enclave will be permitted to continue its most productive industry - casino gambling.

In Hong Kong the ratification is being accepted calmly.

The setting up of Anglo-Chinese consultative groups to monitor Hong Kong's progress towards internal autonomy under Chinese sovereignty has been marred by the farcical business of converting a Hong Kong citizen's British dependent territory passport to a United Kingdom passport to enable him to sit on the main joint liaison group.

Peking insists that only Britain and China are involved in the process of restoration of sovereignty, on the grounds that the people of Hong Kong are mainly Chinese and Peking therefore represents their interests. Mr Eric Ho, the appointee, could not be accepted on the committee until his passport was changed.

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Pretoria to allow mixed-race political parties

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South Africa is to repeal the law banning racially mixed political parties, probably before this session of Parliament ends in a month's time.

It will be the second important piece of apartheid legislation to be repealed from the statute book. Last month the Government announced that the laws prohibiting sex and marriage across the colour line were to be abolished.

The decision to repeal the Prohibition of Political Interference Act, as the law banning multiracial parties is curiously titled, was announced on Saturday night in Pretoria by Mr Chris Heunis, the Minister of Constitutional Planning and Development.

It showed, he said, that the Government was committed "to abolish unnecessary measures and to carry through the reform process aimed at the establishment of a society in which all groups have effective participation in all decision-making processes".

In another move towards reform at the weekend, the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr Danie Steyn, announced the Government's intention to repeal the last piece of legislation reserving certain categories of jobs for whites. This is the clause in the Mines and Works Act which bars blacks solely on grounds of colour from qualifying as "scheduled persons" - that is, those with certificates showing their competency to handle dynamite.

The effect of the restriction is that the 450,000 blacks who

work in South Africa's goldmines, for example, can never become fully-fledged miners.

Mr Steyn said the Government intended to amend the legislation next year, even if in the interim it failed to get the agreement of white miners and their leader, Mr Arrie Paulus, who has hitherto been the main stumbling block to change.

There are about 30,000 whites in Mr Paulus's union, of whom some 11,000 work in the goldmines. One of their fears, if job reservation goes, is that they could be replaced by cheaper black labour.

The abolition of the Prohibition of Political Interference Act, Mr Heunis made clear, will not change the racially segregated structure of Parliament, which has three separate chambers for whites, Indians and mixed-blood Coloureds.

It does mean, however, that whites, coloureds, Indians and blacks (Africans), the latter account for more than 70 per cent of the population but not represented in Parliament at all, would be able to join the same political party.

Such a party could then be represented in all three chambers of Parliament.

It is important for the Government to maintain the segregated structure of Parliament for the time being as this gives the white house, where it has a huge majority, an effective veto over all legislation.

Without this protection, the Government could be outvoted by a cross-racial alliance of political forces.

Moscow leaves Gandhi glowing

From Our Own Correspondent, Delhi

The Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, returned from the Soviet Union yesterday, justifiably pleased with himself and the way his visit went.

Glowing slightly in the Delhi heat, to which he had perhaps grown unused, and for which he was unsuitably dressed in a dark "Nehru" jacket with high-buttoned collar, he said the visit had been very successful, adding that he had had very good talks with the Soviet leadership, and in particular Mr Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mr Gandhi seems to have been able to satisfy most of the friends of the Soviet Union in India that Indo-Russian relations remain the principal plank of his foreign and trade policies, while at the same time making it clear that he was not buying everything Mr Gorbachev had to sell.

Most commentators have welcomed the signing of two economic co-operation agreements, lasting until the year 2000, noting approvingly that Russia is now India's largest trading partner.

But talks about the supply of nuclear-powered electricity generating equipment have not yielded fruit.

On foreign affairs, the two sides had a close identity of views on many topics listed in the joint statement issued at the end of the visit. They agreed on steps towards nuclear disarmament, and on stern criticism of Israel, South Africa and the Western base in Diego Garcia.



Homecoming: Mr Gandhi and his wife Sonia arriving in Delhi after their Soviet visit.

But nothing was heard in the final communiqué of Mr Gorbachev's suggestion of an all-Asian collective security pact. The proposal was not as badly received as when President Brezhnev made a similar offer, which involved an element of Soviet supervision, but Mr Gandhi was quick to pass over the idea when it was raised at Delhi's Palam airport yesterday.

He preferred to concentrate, as the joint statement did, on the UN declaration of the Indian Ocean as a peace zone.

On Afghanistan, Mr Gandhi was reported to have restated the Soviet leaders that India disapproved of all forms of external interference in the country's affairs.

Mr Gandhi will set off on his travels again next week, this time to France and the US. It is plain that he will express his opposition to Star Wars and, perhaps of more direct concern, Pakistan's apparent progress towards developing nuclear weapons, with evident American complacency.

● ISLAMABAD: A member of Pakistan's National Assembly called yesterday for the country to make an atomic bomb, saying it would boost the nation's defence and be supported by the people (AP reports).

"The entire nation supports making a bomb. Why should not we do it to make our defence independent of other nations?" Shaikh Rasid Ahmed said.

Agca confessions hold key Eight go on trial for plot to kill Pope

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The trial opens here today in a heavily protected Rome courtroom, of three Bulgarians and five Turks accused of conspiring to kill the Pope on May 13, 1981, with an attack in St Peter's Square which left him severely wounded.

Immediately after the shooting police arrested Mehmet Ali Agca, a Turkish terrorist who shot the Pope with a 9mm Browning pistol only to be immobilised by a quick-thinking man. He was jailed for life after a brief trial, the most severe penalty under Italian law.

The first year of his sentence was to have been served in conditions of complete isolation, and for some months he remained silent, apparently believing that he would be freed.

Once his hopes proved to be vain Agca began a celebrated series of confessions which implicated not only members of the "Grey Wolves", the Turkish far right terrorist organisation to which he belonged, but also two former officials of the Bulgarian embassy in Rome as well as Bulgarian airline executive supposed to have been given the task of driving Agca and another terrorist away after the assassination.

These confessions so far form the only basis for implicating the security services of the eastern bloc, and so indirectly the Soviet Union, in the attempt on the Pope's life.

Of the Bulgarians only Mr Sergei Antonov, the airline official, will be present in court. He was arrested in November 1982.

The others, Mr Jelle Koley Vassilev and Mr Todor Stojanov Ayrazov, were recalled to Sofia before accusations were made against them. The court is expected at some stage to move to Bulgaria to interrogate them, as well as Mr Bekir Colak, a Turkish businessman living in Sofia who allegedly

put Agca in touch with the Bulgarian secret service.

In the meantime, one of the principle mysteries remains that of why the Bulgarians left Mr Antonov in Italy while withdrawing the other alleged conspirators, who were covered by diplomatic immunity.

The judges are well aware that very little substantial evidence has been found to support Agca's accusations despite years of investigation.

Agca himself will be among the accused, but the charge against him is relatively minor: he is charged with having brought a weapon into Italy illegally. His role as witness, however, will be crucial: it is his version of the background to the shooting of the Pope that the court must judge.

He maintains that the Bulgarians planned the crime, financing him and his fellow Grey Wolves and supplying logistical support. The alleged motive for the attempted assassination was that the first Slav to be elected Pope had become too dangerous an influence in Eastern Europe.

Agca, however, has been shown to have lied at times, and twice has retracted evidence.

The hearing is expected to last until December.

An unexpected new case was added at the weekend with the revelation that another Turk, Mr Aslan Esamet, aged 25, was arrested on May 14 during the Pope's visit to The Netherlands.

He was carrying a pistol believed to be from the same stock of four as that bought by Agca in Vienna in April 1981. It is the first of the remaining three to have come to light.

● AMSTERDAM: The public prosecutor dealing with the Dutch case, Mr Van der Laan, yesterday said there were serious doubts about the man's identity (Our Correspondent writes). Though he claims to be Aslan Esamet, his passport thought to be false.



Among the accused: Mehmet Ali Agca (left); the Turkish Mr Musar Sedar Celebi; and Mr Sergei Antonov (right).

28 cardinals created

From John Earle, Rome

The Pope created 28 new cardinals on Saturday at a consistory held for the first time in the open air, in St Peter's Square. The cardinals from 19 countries, swore obedience and received the red biretta, or cardinal's hat, at a ceremony watched by 20,000.

They were extorted by the Pope to have "the prudence of the serpent and the simplicity of the dove". Often they would meet opposition, often persecution and imprisonment, he said. But the word of the Gospel would survive victorious over

today's persecutions, and bring to the generations of the new millennium the promise of pardon and the message of hope.

Of the 28, whose names were announced in April, five are from Italy and two from the US - Archbishop John O'Connor of New York and Bernard Law of Boston. Some come from countries where Church-State relations are tense, such as Cardinal Henryk Gulbinowicz, of Poland, and Cardinal Miguel Obando Bravo of Nicaragua.

Rising Thai alarm over Vietnamese attacks

From Neil Kelly Bangkok

Incursions across the Thai border by Vietnamese forces in Cambodia are causing deep concern to Thailand and some Western governments. In the latest incident at the weekend Vietnamese soldiers crossed into Ubol Ratchasani province and clashed with a Thai patrol.

Local Thai officials said the fighting which went on several hours, left five Thai soldiers and one civilian dead. Three men were wounded. Vietnamese casualties are not known.

The fighting forced the evacuation of 600 Thai civilians from border villages. As the Thais brought up reinforcements, the Vietnamese retreated and are believed to have moved back into Cambodia.

The incursion coincided with the delivery of another Thai protest note about more than 10 Vietnamese border infringements since November. It said Vietnamese troops were still entrenched in the south-eastern province of Trat, where 1,200 crossed the border last month.

Thai officers said 1,500 marines were still in positions there, as another Vietnamese attack was likely.

The note said 64 soldiers had been killed and 153 wounded by Vietnamese invaders since November. The Thais denied Vietnam's counter-claim that they had sent troops and aircraft into Cambodia last month.

Commenting on the border situation, the US ambassador in Bangkok, Mr John Gunther Dean, said Washington was trying to be responsive to Thailand's needs. "The most important objective of the United States in South-East Asia is the maintenance of Thailand's security."

Forgotten Ethiopians forced to scavenge

By Paul Valley

The small market town of Zui Hamusuit in northern Ethiopia has a population of only 800 in normal times. Today 7,000 people live in its streets, which they comb for grains of wheat that have fallen from merchants' sacks.

The scale of the famine in this remote area, sandwiched between the territories held by the Ethiopian Government and the Tigrian rebels, is enormous according to a team of German doctors recently returned from the north of Wollo province.

"In the Waga region two thirds of the population have left their homes; many of the villages are totally empty," said Dr Maria Altschul, one of five doctors from the charity German Emergency Doctors.

"In one area we saw 60,000 people who were totally without food. Locals reports suggested that there are as many as 300,000 in the immediate vicinity. She said people were reduced to scavenging."

The doctors are the only foreigners to have worked in the forgotten region, which is controlled by a minor rebel group, the Ethiopian Peoples' Democratic Movement.

The doctors originally intended to setup five clinics and a field hospital to be staffed by locally trained barefoot doctors. But the problems of starvation were so acute that instead they did a survey to see how much surplus food was available in those parts of the region bordering on Gondar, which is less affected by the drought.

● NAIROBI: Two West German military transport aircraft and one from Belgium are to launch an airlift of food, medical supplies and seeds to famine-hit areas of Darfur region in western Sudan this week (Charles Harrison writes).

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THE ARTS

Theatre in New York: Holly Hill reviews Broadway musicals Energetic and becalmed interplay



Daniel H. Jenkins (right) as a rather mature Huckleberry Finn with Ron Richardson's Jim in *Big River*

In this most pathetic season of Broadway musicals, one redeeming grace has finally arrived, and its name is *Big River* (Eugene O'Neill Theatre). An adaptation of Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, the show is not a classic but congenial company and warm family fare.

Des McAnuff's imaginative staging makes the action move in energetic and becalmed interplay, like the flow of the Mississippi River on which Huck and the runaway slave Jim make their bid for freedom. The breadth and precision of vision - from panoramic scenes with actors spilling into boxes and aisles to capture a town's social fabric, to the detail of an echo in Injun Joe's cave - are enthralling. So are Heidi Landesman's sets, with the Mississippi in the background like an iridescent coil of smoke, swirling rafts and interiors suggested by a few formal or rustic touches.

Roger Miller, winner of 11 Grammy awards and six Gold Records for songs like "King of the Road", is a happy addition to Broadway lyric and music writers,

making his debut with the jolliest score since *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. His country and western idiom, with bluegrass, blues and one gospel, embodies Mark Twain's characters and vernacular.

The performances are engaging: Ron Richardson as adoptable Tom Sawyer and Bob Gunton and Rene Auberjonois near show-stealers as the con men King and Duke. It is, however, a mortal sin for a musical featuring Mr Gunton (the original Juan Peron in *Evita* here) not to have even one solo for him. At least Patti Cohenour, who outshone Linda Ronstadt when they alternated Mimi in *La Boheme* earlier this season, has a pretty ballad to sing with Huck and Jim.

A problem is the casting of Daniel H. Jenkins as Huckleberry Finn. There is nothing wrong with Mr Jenkins, whose acting and singing are charming, but not for a moment is he credible as a teenager. Huck is America's Peter Pan - the eternal boy longing for freedom and adventure - but not bereft, here, of his sexuality. In appearance and undisguisable sophistication, Mr Jenkins's manli-

ness is present rather than nascent, and his obvious adulthood deprives *Big River* of its innocent core.

More damaging is William Hauptman's book, which is workmanlike when it needs to be inspired. Both acts get stuck on mud-banks here and there; nevertheless *Big River* aims high and makes an honorable journey almost to the mark.

Way off centre are *Grind* (Mark Hellinger Theatre) and *Leader of the Pack* (Ambassador Theatre). Set in a Chicago burlesque house, featuring black and white performers, *Grind* has some dazzling numbers staged by Hal Prince and choreographed by Lester Wilson. These, plus costumes and sets with just the believable blend of glitz and sleaze, promise much.

The performances range from outstanding (Timothy Nolen, an operatic baritone who is too good for his songs and undeveloped character) to very good (not a stellar rating for Ben Vereen, who did more with less in *Pippin*), but all bog down in Fay Kanin's lugubrious book.

We are frequently clubbed with messages about racial injustice, when

early scenes showing the theatre owner's frenzy to keep the races segregated onstage and backstage make that point firmly.

Leader of the Pack offers 24 songs by Ellie Greenwich (most written with partners, particularly her erstwhile husband, Jeff Barry). These are interrupted by inane vignettes of Ellie's life, culminating in an appearance for four numbers by the real Miss Greenwich (a good sport, but not a Broadway-calibre performer).

The only bearable aspect of the vignettes is ebullient and graceful acting, singing and dancing by Dannah Manoff and Patrick Cassidy as young Ellie and Jeff. This is a show, however, flashily designed and slickly packaged for nostalgia buffs. They may actually like the story of how Ellie wrote "Be My Baby", "Do Wah Diddy", "Hanky Panky", "Da Doo Ron Ron", the title number and other songs which sold over 30 million records until the trend they set in the early 1960s was swamped by the Beatles. The numbers are lively, highlighted by a show-stopping performance of "River Deep, Mountain High" by Darlene Love.

PUBLISHING Signs of success

The cult of the author, as opposed to that of the book, shows no sign of abating. Last year Alec Morrison and Rosemary Rayfield set up a book club, Modern First Editions, to capitalize upon this, the principle being that if you are inclined to buy a particular book you would do even better to have it signed by the author.

To become a member you are asked to pay £6 per annum. In return, three times a year you have the opportunity to purchase one or more from eight first editions, photographed by their writers. Titles already offered include J. G. Ballard's *Empire of the Sun*, Lisa Si Aubin de Teran's *The Tiger*, Beryl Bainbridge's *Watson's Apology*, Len Deighton's *Mexico Set*, Erica Jong's *Parade* and *Kisses* and the occasional non-fiction title such as Arthur Marshall's *Life's Rich Pageant*.

The brochure states that you pay the same as you would in a bookshop, plus a "standard" charge of £1.50 for packing and postage for each book. "By special arrangement with the publishers, the authors... have agreed to sign 150 copies of their books." I do not know how many subscribers Modern First Editions have, but if you were the 151st person to request *Empire of the Sun* presumably you would be disappointed.

The fact is that most authors, especially "literary" novelists, are delighted to be asked to sign their books, either in a bookshop or on a visit to their publishers or even - if the admiring reader encloses return postage and packing - through the post.

As the brochure says, "You could, of course, obtain the books from a bookshop and save the cost of p & p - not to mention the £6 - but many bookshelves are reprinted even before the official publication date and it can be hard to track down a genuine 'first edition'."

This sounds terribly romantic. What is an "unofficial" publication date? "A genuine first edition" suggests that improper or pirated editions of these books are pouring from the presses. It is the case, owing to Booker Prize euphoria, that *Empire of the Sun* was reprinted prior to publication but this, these days, is exceedingly unusual for a literary novel.

Modern First Editions (the address is 87 Howard's Lane, London SW15 6NU) is a worthwhile enterprise, and I do not intend to sneer at it. The new list of eight titles includes Anthony Burgess's *The Kingdom of the Wicked*, A. S. Byatt's *Still Life*, Jonathan Raban's *Foreign Land*, Jane Gardam's *Crozier's Daughter* and Richard Cobb's *A Classical Education*. If you wish someone other than yourself to decide upon which new books you should buy and which, like wine, may be worth laying down for the future, Modern First Editions is a sensible bet.

Now here is something new. At the recent Booksellers' Conference Tim Waterstone rounded on booksellers who were critical of publishers for selling through department stores and other "non-traditional" outlets: all ways should be tried for finding new buyers for British books.

In the current issue of the *New York Review of Books* Waterstone offers readers "a huge range of nearly 100,000 new and stock titles which can be mailed anywhere in the world". The justification is that "With current exchange rates, British books are now around HALF the price of books published in the US".

Bully for Mr Waterstone, who knows his American book trade as he used to run W. H. Smith's business there. But is he intending to ask the British publisher each time a book is ordered from the States whether the US rights in the title have been sold to an American publisher? If they have, then it is a violation of the agreement to supply books from London to the USA.

E.J. Craddock

Television The Fates exact a dreadful revenge

There are countries in the world which come to a curfew-like halt when *Dynasty* is shown. One way of explaining its universal appeal is to compare the soap, extremely fleeting, with Greek tragedy. The same instincts seem to be tapped, those thrown up by ruling families and their destructive passions - only in place of unpredictable Furies you have fluctuating oil prices; instead of Medea you have Joan Collins and instead of Sophocles one Edward DeBlassis.

Last night's episode (BBC 1) would certainly have been all Greek to anyone tuning in for the first time. Considering what the characters had to say, it was perhaps just as well that money did most of the talking.

Part: Creon, part: Oedipus,

Blake Carrington presides with a manic stare over his crumbling and depraved empire. The sure sign of indiscriminate but understandable. Everyone he meets has claims to be his child or his former wife's child or his long-lost half-sister. "I don't care what it takes or what it costs," he snaps down the phone in his dressing gown. (In *Dynasty* everyone is always on the phone or in a dressing gown.) He is trying to find something out about his former wife's long-lost daughter, Amanda - namely her parentage. The daughter - in real life the daughter of a Yugoslav princess - also wants to discover the name of her father. Not that she conveys this very well. Catherine Oxenberg may

be awfully pretty but she is a pretty awful actress. When she asks her mother Alexis, who sports a purple wig, you feel she would also like to know the name of Alexis's hairdresser (the name of the programme's hair-stylist, incidentally, is Susan Mills Liguori, after the head of wardrobe probably the most important person on the set).

Blake invites Amanda to dinner. "Wear something kind of fancy," he says. She does, but so does Krystle (sic), his pregnant wife. "That's the most beautiful maternity gown I've ever seen," Amanda tells Krystle, who peers out from under a blonde fringe pursuing her luscious lips. Even as they tuck into their vichyssoise Blake is hatching a plot in Istanbul.

Turkey, to avenge himself on a business rival. The plot goes wrong. The man is shot dead and the Fates exact their own dreadful revenge - another episode.

A shooting was at the heart of *La Piovra* (Channel 4), the first of an Italian drama series about a dynasty quite as powerful as the Carringtons - the Mafia. A detective come to replace his murdered colleague soon finds himself caught up in druggy aristocrats and shifty bankers. Rascally directed by Damiano Damiani, it managed to hint plausibly at the unseen threat and eyes of the Mafia and the bonds by which they exert their hold on Sicilian society.

Nicholas Shakespeare

Jazz-Rock

Sting
Mogador Theatre, Paris

For his solo debut Sting has recruited an aggregate of the finest jazz-rock players in the business. That he can command the services of such heavyweight musicians as the drummer Omar Hakim (Weather Report), the bassist Darrell Jones (Miles Davis Band), the keyboardist Kenny Kirkland and the saxophonist Branford Marsalis is as much a mark of the respect with which Sting is regarded as a musician as it is of

his ability to pay the doubtless enormous wages bill.

As one might expect, the show was a highly sophisticated exposition, featuring songs from the forthcoming album *The Dream of the Blue Turtles* and a few *Police* numbers reworked in a jazz or funk vein. Although it was interesting to hear the latter, particularly the sweet soul music version of "Bring On the Night", it must be said that they lacked the taut attack of the original versions and could be described, appropriately in this city, as *trite chic*.

The new material was more promising, particularly where

the band was able to hit a cool swing stride as on "Consider Me Gone" and "Moon Over Bourbon Street". Sting was in fine voice, Brandon Marsalis's sax glided the performance throughout with its rich, resonant timbre, and Omar Hakim played a fierce drum section during the climax of "I Burn for You" (from *Brimstone and Treacle*).

What seemed to be missing was a sense of adventure. This was a departure from Sting's work for the *Police*, but, whereas Andy Summers and Stewart Copeland's individual projects have revealed a

more radical side to their musicianship, Sting's need to experiment, though partly fulfilled, has been subjugated to his desire to keep an eye on the main chance.

Many of the numbers played were skilful and unusual pop songs which will provide Sting with the hit records he desires. But the live performance would have benefited immeasurably by the musicians being given their heads more freely and being less confined to the role of a backing band.

David Sinclair

Theatre in London Verbosity in obscurity

Waste
Lyric

Harley Granville Barker wrote two versions of his play, in 1907 and 1926. This production, by John Barton, uses a composite text which leaves many of the political and ecclesiastical references obscure and which in its length and verbosity frequently seems the result of clumsy confusion. I know nothing about the campaign in the first decade of this century to disestablish the Church of England in order to redirect its income towards educational foundations of a Utopian character, and on Friday night's evidence I should guess that very few of the audience were any wiser than myself.

The action of the piece concerns the fall from grace of a political wonder. His burning concern with Disestablishment leads him to consider a position in the Tory Cabinet of the day, a shady cabal of cynics and fixers.

We first meet some of them at the end of a country-house weekend where their ladies, bored with Bach and Beethoven, are obviously itching to wield the distaff in a wider arena than the drawing room. The only one

who does have a direct bearing on the subsequent action, an outsider named Amy O'Connell, is at once identifiable by her flaming scarlet dress; we can guess already that her influence will be disastrous.

Judi Dench has two items of equipment necessary to tackle such a role: her supple voice, which seems to have not so much a catch in it as a whole string of hooks, and her extraordinary locomotion which can only be described (in this setting, in these gorgeous dresses) as a sashay. When she crosses the stage her head and body look to be swivelling in two or three directions at once, and it is a source of unfailing interest to speculate as to the posture in which each of her seductive provols will leave her. In case this sounds comical, I should stress that its effect is utterly absorbing - the more so, perhaps, since the character she plays has so little development and (in common with the rest) so few decent lines to deliver.

The man she diverts from his career, who impregnates her and who is ultimately brought down by the scandal that ensues from her attempted abortion and death, is played by Daniel Massey. Mr Massey has an

heroic profile and to start with at least impelling stage presence: we really do feel his charismatic power. Until, that is, we start to notice his creaking voice, his exaggeratedly stiff attitudes, the way he says "gonna" and "political". It gives a vast relief when Charles Kay, as Lord Charles Chutlup, brings his fastidious, churchy voice into the reckoning, even though their intellectual confrontation sinks in a quagmire of wordy cleverness.

Cleverness is the own-goal of the whole play. This is Saki-land, thumpingly extended, with the bulk of the dialogue consisting of epigrammatic drolleries which prove to be something less than droll when you listen closely: a bogus, dinner-party form of wit. In a true comedy of manners this might be a positive advantage, but it does the play's tragic theme a crippling disservice. The *ideas* of the piece - the role of the Church, the mechanics of Cabinet government, the injustice done to women in a society founded on hypocrisy - might make a stimulating read on a rainy afternoon, but do not add up to much of an evening at the theatre.

Martin Cropper

Concert

SCO/Kojian
Queen Elizabeth Hall

One minor but still distressing aspect of Lebanon's tragic recent history has been the disintegration of cultural activity in what was a land of great artistic fertility. Lebanese musicians have always been adept at absorbing influences from many quarters, but in the last 30 years there has been a particularly remarkable musical renaissance. Focused on the American University and the National Conservatory of Music in Beirut, it has produced a crop of distinguished composers and performers, some of whom have fused Arabic and Western techniques with considerable subtlety.

Those days of happily heterogeneous creativity may eventually return to Beirut. Meanwhile many of Lebanon's brightest talents are active in Europe and

America, and on Saturday the British Lebanese Association (founded last October) provided a London showcase for three of them. With many Lebanese present, and with the Lebanese Red Cross collecting at the door, it might have been an appropriate occasion to play some Lebanese music: a work by the highly-regarded Toufic Saba Succar, perhaps. As it was, the American-based conductor Varujan Kojian chose to make his British debut with Mozart and Schubert symphonies.

He obtained neat ensemble, a good response to dynamic indications and a warm, well-balanced instrumental blend, with an especially firm bass line in the scurrying finale of the "Haffner". The same work's minuet did seem ponderously paced, whereas in Schubert's Third Symphony the speeds were just right. Here the wind principals of the on-form Scottish Chamber Orchestra made the most of their arching solos, and Kojian judged the

balance between the skittish and the heroic carefully.

Also making his British debut, the trumpeter Nassim Maalouf chose a Vivaldi concerto, originally for oboe and violin but effectively transcribed for piccolo trumpet. He tongued nimbly and securely, with his strong vibrato and legato phrasing presenting a striking contrast to current British styles of baroque trumpet playing.

A more familiar figure to us is the flautist Wissam Boustany, whose full-bodied tone (especially low down), excellent dynamic control and mercurial fingering were well served by the quirky and diverting C. P. E. Bach Concerto in G. Boustany's main problem is his high-voltage personality, which causes him to rush passagework unnecessarily, and to indulge in a pantomime of emotional gestures during orchestral ritornelli.

Richard Morrison

Opera La Boheme Covent Garden

Alongside its starchy cast, sumptuously sung, *Samson et Dalila* Covent Garden is running at the moment a *Boheme* of more modest aspirations. John Copley's staging of Puccini, one of the liveliest and most sympathetic productions he has done for the Royal Opera, has rarely been far from the repertoire since it was first seen in 1974 and it too has housed stars aplenty during its time. But in this revival, rehearsed by Richard Gregson, the Bohemians and friends are sung by those moving up the international league rather than the singers sitting at the top of it.

All the principals are new. By far the most accomplished and attractive performance comes from Gino Quilico, whose praises have been sung often enough on this page from Paris and elsewhere, as Marcello, Hecuba, and Quilico a tenor rather than a high baritone then he would have been natural casting for Rodolfo. His bearded, romantic good looks, his little movements and his constant involvement with everything happening onstage would have turned any Mimi's head at the guttering of a candle. As it stands, it is a wonder that Musetta (a disappointingly breathy performance from Nelly Miricioiu in a role that scarcely shows her at her best) should leave such a warm-voiced male for a tedious old sugar daddy like Alcandro. The Hungarian tenor Denes



Most accomplished, most attractive: Gino Quilico with Nelly Miricioiu

Gulyás, who has a stack of engagements in the West over the next few months, started indifferently in his house debut as Rodolfo. He lumbered around the stage while Quilico effervesced, but he progressed with the evening, displaying pretty and boyish head tones, especially in the "Adieu, adieu sveglia" duet with Mimi in Act III. There is promise in plenty here but the interpretation needs more all-round polish. Ana Maria Gonzalez was moved up from Musetta to Mimi after the withdrawal of Gabriela Benackova and this sounded very much like a mistake. Her soprano is too hard to give that feeling of fragility that all the best postwar Minis, from de los Angeles to Cotrubas, have achieved. Now Musetta would have been a different matter. ... Matthew Best (good tone but plummy

diction) and William Shimell completed the quartet of Bohemians as Colline and Schvane, all very different characters as Puccini intended beneath their Paris rooftops. Covent Garden were wise to employ an experienced hand in the shape of Silvio Varviso, who in fact was the conductor back in 1974, to keep the young singers together. And that is exactly what he did, courteously and unobtrusively, in the first two acts while they were all finding their stage legs before putting his own gentle imprint on the score in the second half of the opera. Musetta's lap dog still narrowly escapes being served up on a silver in the Café Momus, I am glad to say, as he is passed from hand to hand in Act II before ending up in the arms of a sweating chef before a burning fiery furnace.

John Higgins

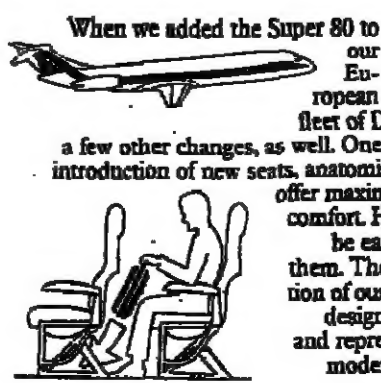
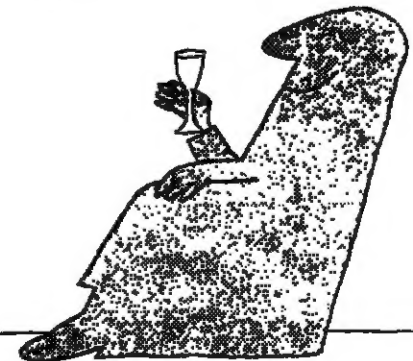
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A weed among the flowers

by Graham Greene



Despite his celebrated if fictional travels with his aunt, Graham Greene, the novelist, is at his happiest when voyaging alone. Today we publish for the first time Greene's account of a trip to China in 1957 which, contrary to his wishes, he was to share with the late Lord Chorley and a Hampstead communist by the name of Mrs Smith. The following text came to London, like most of his communications, from Antibes in the south of France, by way of his sister Elizabeth Dennys in Sussex. Seasoned connoisseurs of Greenery will recognize the style as a mixture of his travel writing and his "entertainments". Chronologically, the China trip which tested his tolerance comes between the publication of one of his finest serious novels, *The Quiet American* (1955), set in south-east Asia, and his Cuban comedy *Our Man in Havana* (1958). Now read on.

I little knew the turbulent time which lay ahead of me when on the telephone my friend Margaret Lane invited me, subject to the consent of the Chinese authorities, to join a little party including herself and her husband for a month's visit to China in April 1957. It was during that deceptively hopeful season of the Hundred Flowers and I accepted the idea with enthusiasm. When I visited the Chinese Embassy I gathered that all was in order.

At London Airport I was a little disappointed when I found myself without my friends, who were apparently leaving some weeks later in another group. So here we were on the tarmac, four of us, all strangers to each other: myself, Lord Chorley, who was a distinguished socialist lawyer, a Mrs Smith, a communist lady from Hampstead, and a professor whose name I didn't at first catch. His subject, Comparative Education, was something then quite unknown to me and I shall continue to call him the Professor since as it turned out I was to behave quite abominably to him. I was even to behave abominably to the innocent Lord Chorley, but Lord Chorley is dead and he will not be hurt by anything I may write.

The trouble didn't start at the first stage, which brought us to Moscow where we changed planes, nor on the 48 hours one which followed in those distant days before the jet to Peking, so perhaps the Mou-Tai which we learnt to appreciate after we arrived in China, may have contributed a little to the trouble I caused. We saw little of each other between planes in Moscow and were still a friendly party when we changed to a Chinese plane in Mongolia at Ulan Bator. It was a very rough descent to Peking and I asked the air hostess why we didn't wear safety belts. "Oh", she said, "of course we had safety belts at first, but now our pilots are so reliable."

I think it may have been my deeply rooted preference to travelling by myself which began the trouble. To misquote Kipling, "He travels better who travels alone". When we arrived at Peking airport we were entertained at once with tea, sitting on the uncomfortable classical Chinese chairs, and we were asked where we wanted to go. Here was my opportunity, I thought, to be alone, so before anybody else could speak I said: "I want to go to your ancient capital Sian, then I want

to go to Chungking, and then I want to take a boat down the Yangtze-kiang to Hangkew and then return to Peking by train." There was a pause for someone else to speak but then, to my dismay, my three companions agreed with my plan. We were doomed to be together. So what?

No trouble at first. We were told that we must wait for the second party before we visited all the right tourist attractions - and how marvellous they are - the Forbidden City, the Great Wall, the Ming Tombs - nothing in the West can compare with them. A few days had to pass before we flew to Sian and my companions got involved with serious visits to factories and educational establishments and scientific institutes, but I was able to excuse myself, as I had made friends with a gigantic tricycle driver who was ready to take me shopping in the back lanes of the old city. He was probably a police informer, but what did I care? I was innocent of any espionage intentions, I was happy to be alone, buying a case of inks here and an attractive padded jacket there for a friend at home. He even spoke a bit of English which made it even more probable that he was an informer, and I liked him better for wasting his time with me. Perhaps my desire to be alone justified a certain suspicion.

We had now been allotted two guides, a young man and a girl (the girl I suppose to chaperone Mrs Smith). Both were kind, patient and charming. At some point in our travels we visited a collective farm and I questioned our male guide about contraception. "Of course," he told me, "it is encouraged and widely practised."

"In this village, for example, there would be a chemist shop?"

"Yes, yes, in all places."

"Where a man can buy a sheath?"

"Yes, yes, of course."

"Would you mind going and buying one for me?"

He hesitated a long while before he found his reply. "That I cannot do. You see I do not know your size."

It was at Sian that I began my addiction to that dangerous drink, Mou-Tai, which has an alcoholic content of between 50° and 60°. I had been told by an expert that outside the great cities one should choose the



diest restaurants to eat in and this proved to be true in Sian where the Mou-Tai was also of first class quality, which perhaps explains gaps in my memory. I only half remember in Sian watching a Peking opera modern style where girls sold refreshments during the performance like the orange girls in Stuart London, but they sold not oranges but pickled garlic.

Perhaps already I was feeling a certain irritation with the Professor who seemed to me, I am sure quite unjustly, to speak in paragraphs even when replying to such a simple statement as: "It looks like being a good day."

"Yes," he would reply, "when I went to bed last night I noticed that there was a slight breeze coming from the west and I believe..."

Anyway Mou-Tai, even without the Professor, would probably have been my downfall. I bought a small bottle to take with me on the very small plane in which we flew to Chungking where the real troubles began. On the plane, as it descended, the Mou-Tai blew out its inadequate cork and the fumes filled the cabin.

The airport is on the top of the hill which dominates Chungking. A group of our hosts were waiting for us with cars to take us down into the city. We all smelt of Mou-Tai. But I was awariciously guarding what was left in the bottle, having made an even more inadequate cork with a spoon of paper.

A young man ushered me into a taxi. He spoke excellent English and he began to tell me how timely our visit was, for a festival was being held in Chungking for that great English poet, Robert Burns, and the guest of honour would be a great English poet who had written an ode to Lenin, Hugh Mac Mac.

"Diarmid?" I suggested correctly.

"I am a little poet myself," he went on, "and I admire much the poetry of Robert..."

He broke off abruptly. I looked at him. The colour of his face was a strange shade of green. He gestured

wildly with his hand. I realized that he was trying to indicate the bottle of Mou-Tai - such a small bottle to cause so much distress. With regret I threw it out of the window and my companion was reproachfully silent as we made the long circular drive down into Chungking. (I met MacDiarmid a few days later at the festival. I think he was a little annoyed at the presence of an English writer at a Burns festival, but when I spoke to him about the blends of Scotch which I preferred he became friendly).



We were lodged in a very comfortable hotel architecturally based on the Temple of Heaven in Peking and we won golden opinions, when we were asked whether we preferred European or Chinese food, by giving the right answer. Our Russian fellow guests (it was still the period of *entente*) had chosen European, and there were large crates of food from Moscow outside the back door. As a reward we were taken into the kitchen and introduced to the chef who was secretary of the local Communist Party.

The golden opinions cannot have lasted long. The Mayor of Chungking invited us to dinner at the hotel, and the chef surpassed himself. The food was Szechuan which is justly regarded

as the best in China. The Mou-Tai too was excellent. The trouble which had so long been brewing between me and the Professor switched suddenly and unexpectedly and Lord Chorley was the victim.

I had been asked in London to enquire into the fate of an imprisoned writer called, I seem to remember, Mr Hu Feng. As we relaxed over the Mou-Tai at the end of our magnificent meal I asked the Mayor if he happened to know anything about the case of Mr Hu Feng. "Oh, of course, yes," he replied, "Mr Hu Feng is a citizen of Chungking."

"Then I suppose," I went on with a certain lack of tact, "you will be relieved when he is at last brought to trial and you will learn whether he is guilty or innocent."

"He must be guilty," the Mayor replied, "or he would never have been arrested."

There was what seemed a long moment of silence. I think all four of us were a little stunned, even Mrs Smith, by the frankness of his reply. Then Lord Chorley spoke up to ease the embarrassment and only made it worse. He even rose to his feet to emphasize the serious intent of his words.

"All of us here," he said, "realize the special difficulties you suffer from in the People's Republic, overrun as you are by spies from Taiwan."

The image of the *Times* map flashed before my eyes - the huge white patch of China extending from Canton in the south to the wastes of Sinkiang and in the far north to Mongolia and off-set, like a little green ear drop, Taiwan. China "overrun" by spies? Excited as I was no doubt by the Mou-Tai I too scrambled to my feet. I was deeply shocked, I said, to hear an English lawyer speak in such outrageous terms. Was a man considered in his eyes to be guilty without being tried? In that case I must refuse to travel any further in Lord Chorley's company. The dinner party broke up.

Next day was Easter Day. I attended a crowded Mass in the Catholic cathedral and when I returned to the hotel I felt a sense of guilt, which was increased when Lord Chorley met me and held out his hand and apologized for his conduct. The apology of course should have been mine. However, we shook hands and forgave each other and next day found us quite amicably sharing a cabin on the boat to Hangkew.

The only irritant in the party was now the Professor who continued to talk in paragraphs. He shared a cabin with our male guide and Mrs Smith, who remained in a kind motherly way superior to our quarrels, shared a cabin with the young woman guide. She was always quite beautifully calm and a credit, I felt, to her communist faith. Half the boat was given over to soldiers for whom patriotic music was played throughout the day. The four of us were partitioned off from them in a sort of first-class of which we were the only members.

I do not remember whether it was the first night or the second night on board, after dinner on deck and of course some glasses of that insidious Mou-Tai, that I could bear the Professor's paragraphs no longer. Our voices were raised. I forget what terms I used, they must have been severe, for the Professor threatened to throw me into the Yangtze-kiang. I expect it was Mrs Smith who calmed things down and we went to bed.

In the middle of the night I was woken by extraordinary noises, as though somebody was being strangled. They seemed to come from next door and I thought at once of the dangerous Professor. He too had drunk a lot of Mou-Tai. Was he assaulting his cabin companion, our young and friendly guide? The choking sounds continued. I looked across the cabin at Lord Chorley. He was sleeping peacefully. Something had to be done. I got up and went into the corridor and banged furiously on the Professor's door. "Stop that... noise, you bugger," I shouted. There was silence and I went back to bed.

I fell asleep, but when I woke again it

was to the same strangled cries of strangulation, only this time they seemed to come from the deck above. Had our guide escaped there and been pursued by the murderous Professor? Would he, as a substitute for me, be flung into the Yangtze-kiang? After a look at Lord Chorley, who slept peacefully on, I left the cabin to go on deck, but then I realized the true origin of the strange sounds. It was just the Chinese language. The cooks were talking to each other in the kitchen.

Next morning when we were all together Mrs Smith remarked with motherly disapproval: "Mr Greene, why were you shouting those bad words in the passage last night?"

I explained how I had feared that the Professor was strangling our guide. I don't know what the Professor thought, but I had the feeling that then and there I gained the guide's trust and friendship.

I had quarrelled with Lord Chorley. I had quarrelled with the Professor. There was no one else left to quarrel with for no one, I believed, could possibly quarrel with Mrs Smith. Our short stay in Nankow was peaceful and so was our train journey back to Peking (I appreciated the Chinese thoughtfulness in providing fly-flippers in the restaurant car), and it was a relief to me to learn in the hotel that the Margaret Lane group had arrived.



Only one thing went wrong. Both parties were expected to take tea with the Minister of Culture, but we were nearly an hour late in joining him because Miss Beryl de Zoete, the dancer and companion of Arthur Waley, had got locked in her lavatory and nobody seemed able to open the door.

Together we did the tourists' sights and then the Lane party left on the route they had chosen and we four were entertained at a farewell dinner outside Peking. I am sure that the occasion would have gone off splendidly if I hadn't been there.

Lord Chorley made an impeccably brief speech of thanks, but then to my dismay the Professor found it necessary to make another speech which threatened to be as long as the longest of his paragraphs and which gave me time to drink another glass of Mou-Tai. The Professor began: "I want to join my thanks to those of Lord Chorley so admirably expressed by him, and I want to add only one thing: that we have paid our Chinese hosts - not to speak of our two friendly and efficient guides - perhaps the greatest compliment in our power by behaving with such complete naturalness in their presence, and moreover I feel..."

I could bear no more of it. I rose in a rage to my feet. "We have done nothing of the sort," I said. "We have behaved abominably and we owe our hosts a very deep apology." The Professor sat down and the party ended, but before we left the Professor took me on one side. He was not angry. He was only hurt. "I do wish you hadn't interrupted my speech, Greene," he said. "You cannot have realized the circumstances which made it so necessary. You see this afternoon Lord Chorley quarrelled with Mrs Smith."

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Illustrations by Paul Leith

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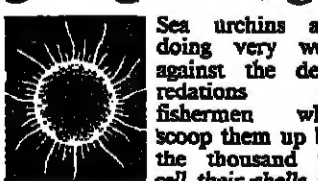
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Sea urchins going strong



Sea urchins are doing very well against the depredations of fishermen who scoop them up by the thousand to sell their shells to the world's curio shops. Nearly two million of the creatures are estimated to be living between Cornish headlands only 25 miles apart. That, says Professor David Nichols of Exeter University, is because only the most mature samples, of a least 10 centimetres across, are taken. Similar growth patterns are indicated for urchins in Scotland and the south-west. So collectors need have no worries about depleting stocks.

When disturbed, urchins always migrate upwards; if an urchin falls from its feeding site, it can then regain its original position.

Urchins have shown a remarkable ability to recolonize fast. In Scotland an island reef was inhabited within a mere six weeks. The animals apparently rolled in water currents while wrapped in seaweed - they are the main browsers of kelp. As for their own edibility, that's considered best in February.

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research: COASTAL BIOLOGY

Laid back leatherback



Leatherback turtles visiting British waters, thousands of miles from their tropical breeding grounds, are no strays according to scientists who have logged turtle discoveries off Wales and Ireland. They come north in the warmer summer in search of jelly fish and during a lifespan swim hundreds of thousands of miles - a matter of particular interest as only about 250,000 are thought to be living.

Once leatherbacks reach maturity and grow to six feet across they have few enemies beyond sharks.

As you dip a toe into that busy rockpool, consider the struggle for existence that goes on for a fine green seaweed called *Cladophora*. Dr John Davenport, of University College of North Wales, simulated rockpools with salinity varying from 34 parts per thousand down to two parts. *Cladophora*'s ability to photosynthesize was halved in the nearly fresh water. Salinity studies (measuring the

amino acids which are produced when the salt content is reduced) are relevant where the soil has a high salt content.

Trailblazing mussel



The lowly mussel, *Mytilus Edulis*, is a seasoned indicator of pollution. Recent research included in a global monitoring exercise called Mussel Watch has measured the amount of heavy metal in the animal's environment that will kill it. The Marine Science Laboratories at University College of North Wales used laser technology to achieve almost perfect accuracy. The result: the mussel's growth is seriously inhibited by five parts copper per billion of seawater - a level quite common in industrialized estuaries. Twenty parts will stop growth and are lethal within about a month.

Marine biologists expect mussels to live for 20 years in unpolluted seas. Unfortunately once copper contamination sets in it remains, and the metal lies in the sediment for ages.

Double helpings

A project to boost lobster stocks has fooled them into breeding twice a year. The secret is raising water in tanks to 20°C to accelerate egg development. Cylindrical water circulation in six bins each with 3,000 larvae has reduced cannibalism. Even so mortality at two weeks is 90 per cent according to the Lancashire and Western Sea Fisheries

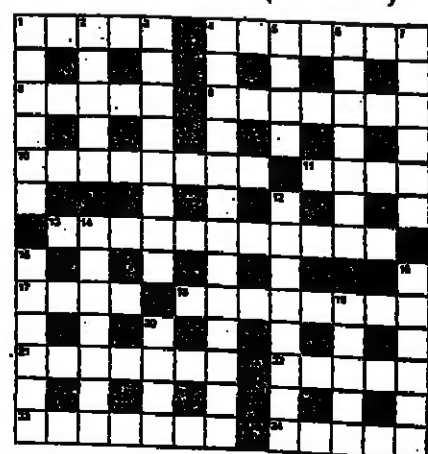
hatchery in north Wales. The hatchery will release 6,000 young lobsters off the Lleyn peninsula into the Irish Sea this year.

What are the chances of reaching maturity? A pilot study off the Yorkshire coast showed that 90 per cent of infant lobsters established themselves in defendable positions within minutes of reaching freedom.

Ann Hills

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 654)

- ACROSS
- Most important (5)
 - David's son (7)
 - Arrow-like weapon (5)
 - Ensure obedience (7)
 - German motorway (8)
 - Impudence (4)
 - Tied game play-off (6,3)
 - Dollar (4)
 - Large statue (8)
 - Frank (7)
 - Golden apples goddess (5)
 - Trooper (7)
 - Darkness (5)
- DOWN
- Offhand (6)
 - In other words (2,3)
 - Warn of (8)
 - One-upmanship author (7,6)
 - Roof space (4)
 - Sarcastic (7)



- Grad (6)
- Piecy (8)
- Bad-mannered (7)
- Tolerates (6)
- With oblique look (6)
- Hurled (5)
- Indian dress (4)

MONDAY PAGE

Cory Aquino, thrust into the political limelight on the assassination of her husband in 1983, has become a symbol of hope for thousands of Filipinos. Philip Jacobson reports

The title of First Lady of the Philippines belongs to the one and only Imelda Marcos. It would be hard to come up with a sharper contrast to this worldly and glamorous figure than Mrs Corason Aquino, who describes herself as "a rather ordinary 52-year-old grandmother with a loathing of the limelight". Yet millions of ordinary Filipinos today look to "Cory" Aquino, and not Imelda, as a symbol of hope for their sorely troubled country. In her, they find qualities of modesty, courage and integrity that few would ever associate with the grand celebrity lordings it over them from the presidential palace at Malacanang.

Cory Aquino was thrust into the limelight in the cruellest fashion with the assassination of her husband Benigno known to all as "Ninoy" before scores of horrified spectators at Manila airport in August 1983. The only Filipino opposition figure of any real stature, Aquino was returning from voluntary exile in the United States intent on challenging the increasingly unpopular regime of President Ferdinand Marcos.

There are those close to Cory who say that she hated the idea of her husband plunging back into the murky, often violent, world of politics in the Philippines. He was, after all, the first person Marcos had locked up on declaring martial law almost a decade earlier. For seven years, Cory and their children - four daughters, one son - saw him only on weekly visits to a military prison, for much of that time, he was under sentence of death on murder and subversion charges which even enemies considered were trumped-up.

Not until 1980 were the Aquinos finally reunited, after he was released to have open-heart surgery abroad. Cory was not sorry to settle into a comfortable enough new life near Boston, Massachusetts, where her husband had been offered academic research fellowships (the first New England winter, she recalls, was a great shock to someone from the eternally hot and sticky Philippines). But, as she observed today: "Politics were Ninoy's first love and we always had a stream of opposition people from home passing through the house. As soon as it began to look as if Marcos really was tottering, I realized that nothing could keep him from going back."

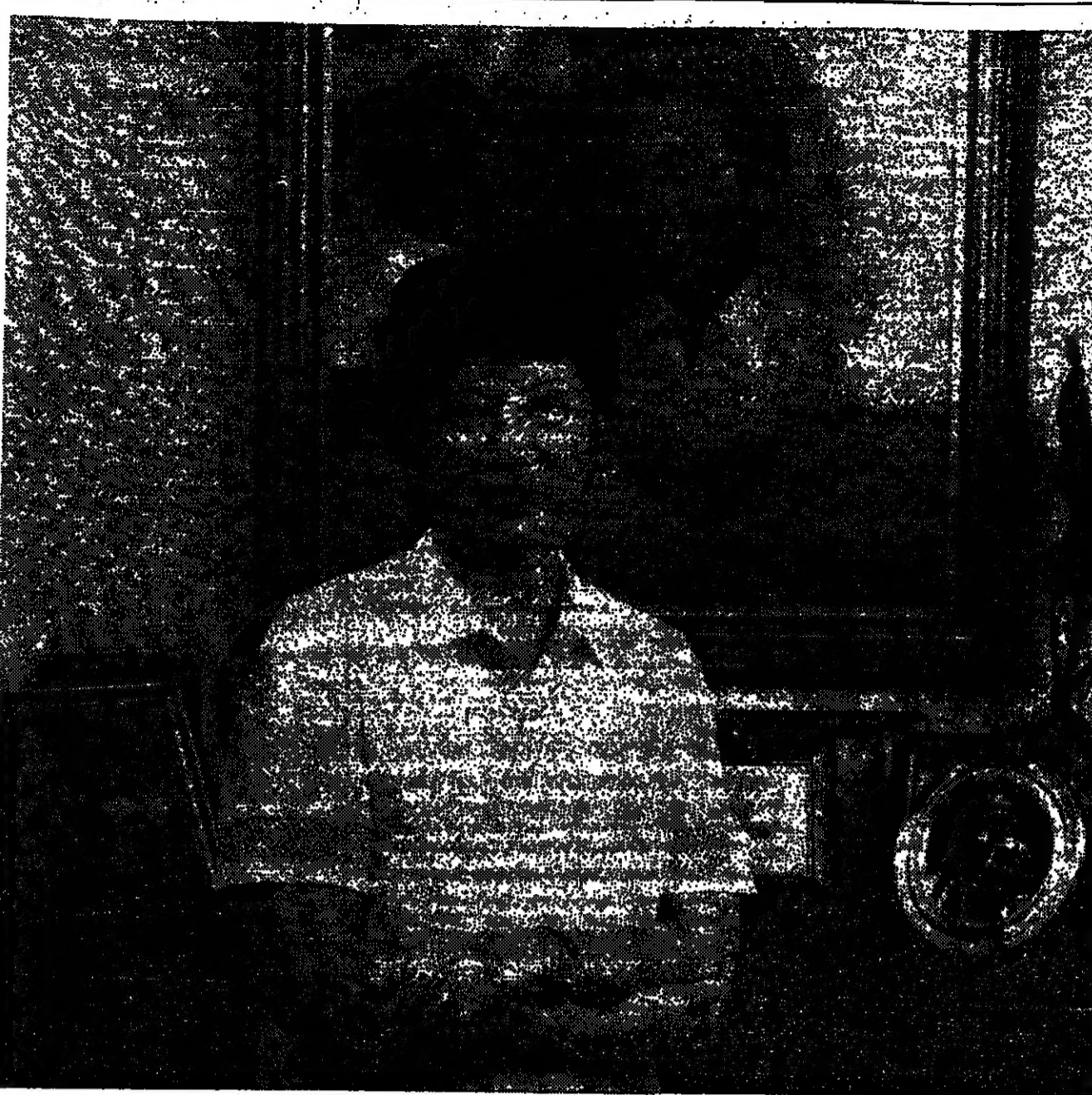
Despite rumours of a plot to kill him on his arrival - even a veiled warning from Imelda Marcos herself - Aquino set off, leaving Cory to wind up the odds and ends of three years in exile. As soon as she heard of his death, she shot down immediately after military escorts removed him from his plane, she booked on to the next flight to Manila. "I had no idea what to expect, but no one was going to stop me from burying Ninoy myself."

Two million Filipinos turned out for Aquino's funeral in a great outpouring of sorrow and anger at the suspected involvement of the Marcos camp in the assassination. "In the middle of the service, I suddenly felt quite overwhelmed and a little dizzy," Cory recalls. "It occurred to me with great force that my life was never going to be strictly my own any more."

A lot of blood was being spilled in the streets then: the woe and suffocating heat Cory looked quite shellshocked with grief and fatigue. A Filipino journalist with me was sure she would never last the pace. "She'll go back to Boston with the children," he predicted. "Cory isn't cut out for the way they play politics here."

My net failed some weeks ago. While I was on the phone, I watched my 14-month-old daughter, Poppy, pull a full teapot over her head. I am tempted to make excuses, to tell you that the teapot was almost in the middle of the table, safely out of swipe range. That I was on the phone, not for frivolous reasons, but making an appointment with an eye surgeon. You won't believe me, or at least I think you won't. Like all parents in this situation, I am still struggling with the rage, the shame and the guilt most parents of burned or scalded children experience.

As it turns out, I was lucky. My neighbour and friend, Sarah, is a nurse at St Lawrence's Hospital in Chesham, a hospital not 20 minutes from where we live and which has one of the best burns units in Britain. Sarah once told me that the first thing you must do



Cory Aquino, who returned to the Philippines: 'No one was going to stop me burying Ninoy myself.'

A brave voice among the blood and bullets

Today, in the words of one admirer, "Cory belongs to the nation". No other public figure inspires such genuine trust and affection at street level: informal polls put her far ahead of the field, Imelda included, as the most popular woman in the country.

"My goodness, property of the Philippines, what a fate!" she says with a laugh, leaning back behind her desk in an office in Manila's financial district.

'Courageous souls can awaken the people'

Some time ago, she abandoned the mourning dresses she wore in public after the assassination. In bright yellow now, the colour associated with the anti-Marcos protest movement, she radiates a very Filipino warmth and charm, quick to smile, hands never still. "Well, if the nation wants me, who am I to argue? I made up my mind after Ninoy was buried that I had to contribute something here. He never lost faith in the Filipinos, even when they were driving him crazy. He always said a few courageous souls can awaken the people. I'm not at all brave, but I have to try my best."

Like his deadly rival, Marcos, Ninoy Aquino was a vital and

charismatic man of great energy, accustomed to getting his own way. Throughout their 28 years of marriage, friends say, he completely overshadowed Cory publicly and in private. Even in the United States, which she knew far better than he - having graduated in French and mathematics at college there - she would slip away after dinner to wash up or be with their youngest girl, Kristina, while the men got down to the *chismis* (gossip) from Manila. How amazing, returning visitors would relate, to find a daughter of the Cojuangco clan, the rich and powerful coconut barons of the Philippines, apparently quite happy to keep house without a single live-in maid.

Cory was perfectly aware of the whispers and quiet uneasiness about a man most saw for the first time lying in his own blood. There's so much cynicism and despair about politics here that they respond very warmly to the idea that my husband actually sacrificed his life for a cause.

Those who know Cory Aquino well are fascinated by the continuing emergence of an extremely shrewd and, when the occasion demands it, steely operator from the dutiful wife who used to creep into Ninoy's

meetings with the coffee. She still dislikes being called a politician. "Can't we say a former housewife who finds herself thrown into politics?" - but since her husband's death, she has arrived at a clear and notably unselfish view of her value to the anti-Marcos cause.

A small circle of trusted friends now act as watchdogs, attempting to protect her from the several opposition factions eager to exploit her name (including, say the uncharitable, the group led by her ambitious brother-in-law, "Buz" Aquino). Somewhat to her surprise, Cory has also acquired to good effect the art of losing her temper. When I last saw her, she was weary from efforts to persuade the hopelessly fragmented opposition to agree at least on a method by which they would pick potential candidates to run against Marcos in the presidential election scheduled for 1987.

At one particularly frustrating meeting, she confessed not a bit regretfully, she began shouting so loud that you could hear her across the street. She was fed up, she yelled at the startled all-male group, with being treated as the Widow Aquino, without a mind or voice of her own. "I know I'm not brilliant," she said later, "but it's high time some people credited me with a little intelligence. I only do things I believe in, and nobody is going to force me into any other situation."

Mr Green, a plastic surgeon at the hospital, explained to me later that people at high stress levels often interpret judicious advice as interference. "The more experienced you are in treating burns the more indefinite you become about predicting with any certainty which ones will heal, what grafts will take and so on. The indefinite is the child itself. Every skin has a different texture, different thicknesses at different places; burns occur at different depths".

The best news of all is that, provided there is no infection and provided the skin is not rubbed or irritated, the skin exhibits a quite marvellous capacity for putting itself right. Poppy's injuries are now faint reminders of the accident: two pink circles no bigger than 10 pence coins on her arms and chest.

But never again will I underestimate the speed and length of a toddler's reach. I have resolved, too, to slow down during the stress periods of the day - the hours between eight and nine in the morning and five and seven at night - when most domestic accidents happen.

With the exception of Kristina, now aged 14, Cory's children have settled into good jobs around Manila, accepting the Philippines as their home again. The family have always been close and tragedy has strengthened their bonds. Kristina is clearly a handful, as headstrong and wilful at times as Cory, as her father had been. "She was only 18 months old when they took Ninoy off to jail. As she grew up I took her everywhere, to court hearings, to the jail, to meet church leaders and human rights groups. It gave her the belief that nothing is too impossible to attempt."

As for that other family, the Marcoses, whom a great many Filipinos will always believe were behind her husband's death, Cory harbours no burning personal hatred. She used to see Imelda frequently when they had children at the same school, but they have not met since the day, five years ago, when the Aquinos set off into exile.

'Her speeches are more assertive and challenging'

She refuses to be drawn about the many comparisons made between her and the vain, profligate First Lady and her court of sycophants. "Anyone would need enormous grace and control to remain modest with the sort of power Mrs Marcos enjoys."

Forgiveness is another matter. "Forgiveness for what?" she snaps, face suddenly colouring. "Who has ever acknowledged an iota of guilt for Ninoy's murder? The papers reported that the Marcoses sent me their sympathy, but I have not received a single word from them, not a single gesture of redemption like the release of political prisoners." There was once an invitation to celebrate the Marcoses' wedding anniversary, she recalls, delivered by a uniformed soldier. "It said RSVP, but I pretended it never arrived. Friends said I should have turned up to spoil their big day, but I felt that would have been rather cheap and dishonest."

Family life is hard enough without the Highways Act 1980 (Sections 170/132/133) which deal with stains on carriages. We have had a threatening letter from the council warning us that unless we remove the stain from the carriage outside our house within 14 days, it will be done for us and we will have to pay for it.

When the letter arrived, five of us rushed as one to the gate in alarm and fear. "I've warned you before about staining the carriage," I shouted at the children. "That's the end of pocket money." They said it was the cat. My husband asked if the cat had been eating cement.

I sent the children for buckets of scalding water, mops, brooms, Flash and the scourer. It was hard to know where to start. Our carriage has never looked exactly unstained. With large drops of oil, spits of unidentified blue stuff and deeply suspect blobs of green, it has faded and received countless patches over the years.

Outside our house, the area in question was a sort of whitish square where the skip had been and a builder had mixed his cement. There are whitish bits all the way along the carriage-way where other skips have been because the area is being improved and there is no gutter. There is no gutter because time has taken the edge from the pavement. Without a gutter it is hard to wash stains away. Any civilised carriage dweller could tell the council that.

In the bitter cold of deep mid-winter, the family set to work. "You will be when the carriage is clean and not before," I told the family. Eventually my husband straightened his carwash back and, wiping his rheumy eyes, glanced northwards along the ridge where a gutter might have been. "Stop," he declared. "We are being persecuted. No-one else has washed their stains away."

I brought the children in and banded their hands. We huddled around the kitchen window, looking for comfort at the new patio which had required the skip which had caused the stain and we asked ourselves: "Why?" Had the builder mortally offended our next door neighbour with his loud sweating and rude heaving? Had we failed to pay the water rates? Was the Assistant Borough Engineer the man I had trodden on at the Post Office?

My husband telephoned him. "I am not at liberty to discuss the matter," he replied, sounding as if he had a filing cabinet lodged in his larynx. "I cannot

A stain on our reputation



BARBARA TONER

say whether or not you have been reported by a neighbour. Nor is it my business to discuss the stains of your other neighbours. I can only urge you to clean your part of the carriage as quickly as possible.

We got the builder back and he poured acid or something all over the encrusted cement. It more or less did the trick but the rest of the carriage is as mottled as ever and we still have no gutter.

Whatever happened to the generation of children who walked five miles to school each day barefoot to save the shoe leather? There are no signs in our family that the current generation would like to follow in its footsteps. It knows only of the "school run".

These involve mothers and fathers in modest four-door estate cars driving anything up to 25 children hundreds of miles a day between home, school, bus stops and railway stations. Accidents happen. Children get left on the wrong doorstep and forced to join strange families despite their protests.

"I'm sorry, Fiona, she will have to do it." There can be unlucky misunderstandings about whose turn it is to bring Fiona home, anyway.

"Sorry to be a bore but have you got Fiona with you?" "Let me look..." "No, that's not Fiona. She must be with Toby's mummy."

"Is that Toby's mummy? Did you collect Fiona?" "As a matter of fact, I didn't," says Toby's mother after a pause. "I think I forgot her."

"Oh, that's all right then. Provided I know where she is."

Penny Perrick is on holiday

CONCISE JUMBO CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Answers to Saturday's puzzle

ACROSS: 1 War of American Independence 15 Ommatidia 16 Triskadeaphobia 17 Ennui 18 Sunna 19 Eddying 20 Tapered 21 Grand Prix 22 Sped east 24 Creative 27 Adenoma 29 Espresso 31 Godparent 32 Improptus 35 Sugar 37 Escalator 39 Gainful 40 Bersagliere 42 Ashamed 44 Me first 45 Cognoscenti 46 Ignoble 48 Kulturkamp 51 Exams 52 Homestead 53 Open drain 55 Oblivious 58 Thyself 61 Task 62 Abundant 64 Rich cloth 67 Cake tin 69 All told 70 Esker 72 Truss 73 St Francis of Assisi 74 Magnifico 75 Central Intelligence Agency DOWN: 1 Wood engraving 2 Roman paces 3 Fat bird 4 Mides 5 Renaissance 6 Catharsis 7 Nalvetre 8 Nakedness 9 Epidiascope 10 Emergence 11 Dead tired 12 No hope at all 13 Ember 14 Hard feeling 22 Realpolitik 25 Inestimable 26 Ogham Irish 28 On offer 30 Rigmorale 33 Painfulness 35 Unbecoming 35 Sprig 36 Rejuvenate 38 Charismatic 41 Ennes 43 Honorary 44 Make out a case 47 End of the story 49 Under strain 50 Football fan 54 Acts prier 56 Langoustine 57 Reestrie 59 Election 60 Brakeham 63 Old girl 65 Cutting 66 Damsel 68 Kufic 71 Rogue



On balance, shouldn't you do something about it?

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VSO membership (I enclose a donation of £5 £10 £15 £20 £25 £30 £35 £40 £45 £50 £55 £60 £65 £70 £75 £80 £85 £90 £95 £100)

Name: Address: Post to: Voluntary Service Overseas, 9 Belgrave Square London SW1 1BP (CPS 41E 40001)

Burning guilt when the safety net fails

Any parents of a toddler learn to live with their ears tuned to the pitch of potential disaster. Red alert sounds: you snatch them from the jaws of doom, from the edges of stifling fire, from water, from noxious chemicals: most of the time, amazingly, the invisible safety net works.

My net failed some weeks ago. While I was on the phone, I watched my 14-month-old daughter, Poppy, pull a full teapot over her head. I am tempted to make excuses, to tell you that the teapot was almost in the middle of the table, safely out of swipe range. That I was on the phone, not for frivolous reasons, but making an appointment with an eye surgeon. You won't believe me, or at least I think you won't. Like all parents in this situation, I am still struggling with the rage, the shame and the guilt most parents of burned or scalded children experience.

FIRST PERSON

Julia Orange



How in which the staff of the Birmingham Burns Unit split out how easily the tender skins of children and babies are damaged by innocent cups of tea, by kettles, by nightdresses which go up in flames. One nurse had said it was difficult not to despise some mothers for

being so careless. Part of me had probably agreed with her. What kind of loon would expose a child to such obvious dangers? My kind of loon. A few seconds removed me from the group of right-minded people with fit children into the category of the ham-fisted and the accident-prone.

Dried, the ward where Poppy and I spent the next five days had three other babies in it and three mothers. The heavily bandaged toddler in the next bed had jumped on to a chair and pulled a boiling kettle over his back and legs.

The babies seemed amazingly cheerful in the circumstances. One toddler who had just had his third skin graft sat watching television, eating Smarties and blowing raspberries while other small patients ran around him laughing and mischievous.

For parents, the days were the oddest mixture of intensity and tedium. At nights we stayed in dormitories provided free by the hospital. There were moments of light relief (one mother's dismay at finding her teenage son's first chest hair had been grafted on to his forehead) and a great deal of mutual support. But the underlying mood was one of deep distress.

THE TIMES DIARY

Maxwell's draw

Robert Maxwell's attempt to have the editor of the *Sun* punished for contempt of court was not his only unsuccessful legal action last week. In the High Court Mr Justice Falconer delivered a final judgement in the prolonged David and Goliath dispute between Maxwell's giant British Printing and Communications Corporation and Norman Lovett's one-man British Programme and Collectors Club of Hull over their rival claims to the trade mark BPCC. His verdict? A stalemate. Maxwell can register the mark, but not for printed matter, newspapers, periodicals or books. Lovett cannot register the mark at all. If this is bad news for Maxwell, it is a disaster for Lovett, who has been using the mark since the early 1970s. He turned down a £40,000 offer from Maxwell to settle before the hearing, has spent at least £15,000 fighting the case, and claims his business has been ruined. "I've taken everything I've got. I still can't believe the result," he told me yesterday. Maxwell was not available for comment. The socialist millionaire was in Warsaw persuading General Jaruzelski to agree to a Pergamon Press biography and lecturing him on how economies should be run.

Short memory

Glorious visions float before me of battalions of Tory MPs on bended knee apologizing to CND's Bruce Kent. In December Jill Knight MP alleged in Huntingdon that CND was Soviet-funded. Kent demanded she substantiate or apologize. When she refused, Labour's Roland Boyes put down a motion in the Commons repeating the demand. The issue swiftly became a point of party honour. Some 50 Labour MPs signed the motion. At least 140 Tories - including Ludlow's Eric Cockeram - signed Sir Frederic Bennett's amendment congratulating Mrs Knight. Unfortunately for Cockeram and his colleagues Ludlow CND has just unearthed a photocopy sent to it by Cockeram in 1983 of a letter to him from Foreign Office minister Richard Luce. "I am aware of no evidence that it [the USSR] has funded CND or other major movements in Britain which are opposed to the government's nuclear defence policies," it says.

Unfrankly, Jim

Ted Heath is not the only ex-prime minister writing his memoirs. Jim Callaghan is working on his - and has been, says a friend, since 1979. "I'm getting on now. I'm about two thirds of the way through. I hope to finish by next Easter," he tells me. But whereas Heath promises a no-holds-barred account, Callaghan's will be of outstanding monotony. He has most enjoyed writing about his early life; there will be no startling political revelations. "Say it's going to be dull, no scandal, and I don't think anyone will want to read it," he instructs me. I trust Collins will not ask him to promote it.

BARRY FANTONI



"And to think I cheered when Beryl's mother emigrated to Sydney"

Apron strings

Yesterday's Sunday paper revelation that President Banda of Malawi used a disguised South African Airways jet for his recent state visit to Britain may not prove the trip's only embarrassment for the 87-year-old fly-whisking autocrat. After the state visit, Banda stayed another 17 days in a private capacity. According to *Skyport*, a Heathrow newspaper, Banda's Boeing 747 clocked up £19,000 in parking fees during that time, and the Foreign Office must now decide whether to send him the bill or waive it. Neither the FO nor the British Airports Authority could comment yesterday. If the story is true, Banda should assuredly be billed: Britain already gives Malawi £13.5 million a year in foreign aid.

Party line-up

The Government really must be rattled by the opinion polls. In its 44-year history, Radio 4's *Any Questions* programme has never been able to persuade a cabinet minister to take part. Until now. "Out of the blue" the programme's producer, Carol Stone, got a call from Tory party chairman John Gummer saying there had been "a considerable shift in our thinking" and that she might like to ring the odd minister. She did. They agreed with alacrity. Michael Heseltine takes on Ken Livingstone on Friday. Shirley Williams on June 21, and in subsequent programmes Leon Brittan, Nigel Lawson and Tom King will placate their backbenchers by hammering home the Government's message.

PHS

Thatcher's state control dilemma

by Andrew Gamble

Since it was elected in 1979 the Thatcher government has been distinctive for its attitude towards the state, but there is disagreement about what that attitude is. The problem for the Government is that its own diagnosis constantly impels it towards state intervention - whether in the internal affairs of trade unions, the spending priorities of local authorities, the curricula of schools and universities, or patterns of family behaviour. At the same time it has been reluctant to create the kind of state machinery that would allow such intervention to be effective.

Many of the capitalist modernizers in the party have grown impatient about the slow pace of advance. One of the more outspoken has been Sir John Hoskyns, formerly head of the policy unit in Downing Street, now director-general of the Institute of Directors.

Hoskyns's proposals, if ever adopted, would be a major reform of British government. They point towards the creation of an executive government, capable of formulating, implementing, and monitoring a coordinated programme of policies. Only in wartime have British governments attempted to act in this manner.

Hoskyns and many other neo-liberals believe that the Government had a radical strategy but that it has been continually frustrated in its

pursuit by the inadequacy of the Civil Service and the present organization of government.

Yet the changes that have so far taken place in the state machine all have precedents in previous administrations and hardly add up to a radical overhaul. Despite its misgivings about civil servants and its determination to reduce their numbers and contain their pay, the Government still relies on the traditional Civil Service to carry through its programme.

The Government has been most successful when faced with challenges to its authority and been able to win a trial of strength. It has "seen off" the Northern Irish Maze hunger strikers, the Argentine junta, the miners, and most recently the rebel local authorities. The Government has demonstrated that intransigence and determination, allied to a correct estimation of the balance of forces and adequate preparations, can win. These victories have contributed to Mrs Thatcher's image as a strong leader. But the approach has been of little use in dealing with long-term problems such as the control of public expenditure or the refashioning of education. Here Hoskyns's critique is relevant.

To secure the permanent demise of corporatism the Thatcher govern-

ment needed to transform economic policymaking and greatly reduce the size of the public sector. The first proved easier, because it meant reasserting what had always been Britain's traditional policy.

Reducing the public sector has proved much more difficult. Government strategy for the public sector has floundered both because it has proved unwilling to confront the special interests, from farmers to mortgage holders, who enjoy fiscal privileges and because it has to work through public institutions and agencies over which it exercises little control. It has attempted to influence these agencies through a variety of indirect means but mostly through financial penalties, often, as with local authorities or higher education, with bizarre results.

Policies to restore public order have also been limited. New powers have been given to the police and judiciary, intelligence gathering and surveillance have been extended, and the repressive potential of the state has been further increased. But the Thatcher government has been unable to secure the return of more retributive punishments or to reverse the permissive social legislation of the 1960s, while its policies on strengthening the family have been vague.

The results of Thatcherism are therefore highly contradictory. Only in relation to trade unions has the state under Thatcher moved in the direction of the kind of strong state needed to restructure society, not tied down by any liberal or democratic scruples, and even here only partially.

The result is a restructuring of the state that may result in a free but not an enterprise economy. It will be free in the sense that it is an open economy fully integrated into the world division of labour, in which unions, it is hoped, will wither away, or will be transformed by degrees into enterprise unions, in which all businesses are given more scope and public assets are privatized.

But it will also still be an economy in decline with growing disparities between its regions and between its employed and unemployed population. The strong state that is needed to keep this economy free is a state able to conduct effective surveillance and policing of the unemployed and the poor, able to confront and defeat any industrial challenge, able to contain any new upsurge of terrorism. But it is not the kind of strong state that would be needed to break out of the cycle of decline.

This article is taken from the June edition of *Marxism Today*.

Edward Mortimer on the ousting of a Khomeini predecessor

When Britain brought off a coup



Mossadegh after his fall. Right, the Rashidian brothers, who helped bring it about

What today's generation knows about Muhammad Mossadegh, if it knows anything, is that he was prime minister of Iran from 1951 to 1953 and was overthrown by the CIA - a point which has been well publicized by the CIA executive who took charge of the operation on the spot, Colonel Kermit Roosevelt. What is less generally remembered, at any rate by those not old enough to recall the events for themselves, is that Mossadegh's quarrel was not with the US but with Britain. The full extent of British involvement in his downfall is revealed in new detail in tonight's edition of the Granada TV series *End of Empire*.

Britain - sometimes in collusion, sometimes in collusion, with Russia - had been the dominant power in Iran for a hundred years or so before 1951. The exclusive right to extract and market Iranian oil belonged to the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (AIOC - later BP). Since oil was Iran's key export, that gave Britain a major role in the economy. To protect her economic and strategic interests Britain intervened extensively in Iranian policies - sometimes overtly, as in 1941 when British troops occupied the country and forced the Shah to abdicate, more often behind the scenes through bribery and manipulation.

Iranian imagination saw a British hand behind almost every political event. Most westerners, such as the American historian Richard Cottam who went to Iran as a student in 1951, assumed that this was "an almost infinite exaggeration" but when Cottam joined the CIA in 1953 and "was in a position to see what was actually happening", he realized that "although it was an exaggeration, it was based on a very substantial layer of fact".

Mossadegh came to power by campaigning on a single issue, the nationalization of AIOC, which for him and for almost all politically-minded Iranians was much more political than economic. What was at stake was the independence of their country. He hoped for American support, since the US was officially sympathetic to anticolonial nationalist movements, both in principle and as an insurance against communism. Indeed many British people believed that the Americans had put him up to it.

In February 1951, just when the nationalization campaign in Iran was reaching its climax, the American oil consortium Aramco concluded a deal with the Saudis on the basis of a 50-50 division of profits.

Lord Shackleton, the principal architect of a hopeful future for the Falkland Islands, concluded a 10-day visit there last week with mixed feelings. Essential reforms intended to guarantee the long-term wellbeing of the islanders he found at times to be proceeding at a pace more creaking than cracking.

Although there are islanders who resent the sudden blossoming of concrete and steel to build harbours, roads and airports on their bleak barren landscape, the majority accept that there can be no return to the sleepy economic backward they inhabited before 1982.

The change of pace in the past three years has been dramatic and unsettling; for many who drove their Land-Rovers over bumpy tracks to watch the inaugural Tri-Star flight into Mount Pleasant airport two weeks ago it was the first time they had ever seen a big jet. Yet in certain crucial respects the pace of progress has not been fast enough.

Few islanders would disagree with Lord Shackleton that the land reform programme has been something of a failure. For generations the islands' 4,400 square miles have been divided into huge privately owned sheep ranches, each hundreds of thousands of acres large and mostly owned by absentee landlords or by the Falkland Islands Company, a subsidiary of the British-owned Coalite company.

The original Shackleton proposal in 1976 was that all the agricultural land should be compulsorily purchased and redistributed in much smaller lots to local farmers. But pressure from vested interests ensured that the proposal was never enacted. Instead, big landowners had to be cajoled into selling off small parcels: the first of the new small farms ("small" in Falkland terms is about 20,000 acres) was established at Greencatch on East Falkland in 1980.

Sir Eric Drake, AIOC's general manager in Abadan at the time, still feels that this agreement came at "a highly inopportune moment" and believes that the US ambassador - "very thick with Mossadegh" - was "always explaining to the Persians how much better they would be with the Americans than the British". But he also admits that the AIOC board in London "were being unduly stingy".

That was certainly the view of many members of the Truman administration. They were dismayed by the AIOC's decision to back AIOC's intransigent opposition to nationalization. But they did cooperate with Britain in boycotting Iranian oil so that Mossadegh should not "get away with it", partly because they were afraid that Britain might take military action.

This fear was not far-fetched. Drake himself flew back to London and was allowed to address the Cabinet, where he "pleaded that we should not allow the biggest foreign asset in Britain to go without doing something about it". At the request of Herbert Morrison, Foreign Secretary, the Joint Planning Staff at the Ministry of Defence studied military options, including measures aimed at forcibly securing AIOC property from nationalization. Shinwell, the Defence Minister, was enthusiastic about military intervention, arguing that "if Persia was allowed to get away with it, Egypt and the other Middle East countries would be encouraged to think they

could try things on; the next thing might be an attempt to nationalize the Suez Canal".

That prophecy proved accurate, and in 1956, Eden took the action at Suez which Morrison and Shinwell had advocated at Abadan five years earlier. Had their advice been followed the results would not doubt have been equally disastrous. That it was not was due partly to the fact that the Truman administration exerted pressure in good time - sending Averell Harriman on a special mission to Iran and keeping both sides talking until the psychological moment for an invasion was past. It was mainly due to the good sense of AIOC itself, however, who said later: "I think if we had used force we would have raised the whole of Asia against us and a great deal of public opinion in the rest of the world too. And it would have been quite wrong morally and politically."

But the crisis dragged on. It was inherited by the Churchill government in October 1951, which rapidly came to the conclusion that the only solution was, in the words of Sir Donald Logan, Iran's desk officer in the Foreign Office at the time, "to get rid of Mossadegh as soon as possible".

This was first attempted by quasi-constitutional methods through the pro-British Iranian elder statesman Qavam Sultaneh, whom the Shah appointed prime minister in July 1952. That provoked mass protests, however, and Mossadegh was swiftly restored, whereupon the British

embassy and M16 began actively to prepare for a coup d'état. The leader of the coup, General Zahedi, was actually chosen for the part by the British chargé d'affaires, George Middleton (since knighted), who describes in tonight's programme the clandestine negotiations he conducted with the general while ostensibly shooting partridge on his country estate.

It was only because Mossadegh, getting wind of the affair, broke diplomatic relations with Britain in October 1952 that the final preparations had to be left in the hands of the Americans. They took over the British network of agents, foremost among whom were the Rashidian brothers, a family of wealthy merchants. Richard Cottam, as a new recruit to the CIA in 1953, was astonished to find that thanks to the Rashidians articles by him which portrayed Mossadegh as a communist collaborator and a fanatic "would appear almost instantly the next day in the Iranian press".

Under Truman the CIA probably would not have been allowed to play this role. But Eisenhower and Dulles were easily persuaded by the British argument that Mossadegh remained in power would eventually lead to a communist takeover. Cottam's view "the British understood the extent of paranoia" about communism in the America of Joe McCarthy, and "consciously played on that fear in order to help persuade us to involve ourselves in the coup".

Islands' protection zone - almost the only remaining rich fishing grounds in the world for which no licence is required.

Islanders are deriving some modest benefit from the fishing gold rush. Harbour dues from trawlers which come within the three-mile limit to transfer their catches to deep-sea refrigerated carriers will this year exceed £500,000, without that revenue this year's budget for the islands would have shown a deficit.

In addition, about 20 islanders are earning large wages as stevedores, being ferried out from Stanley every morning in the charge of a Swedish shipping agent to load frozen fish into the holds of the reefer ships bound for Japan, each with 5,000 tons of squid in its hold.

Establishment of a 200-mile fishery limit is an urgent necessity, chiefly to preserve stocks but also to give the islands a further substantial income from licence fees. Arguments that such a fishery zone would be difficult to police are dismissed out of hand by all who know anything of deep-sea fishing; licensed trawlers are always quick to report any boat that should not be there. Besides, the cost of policing would be modest compared with the profits which could be made.

The British government is at last beginning to move on the question of preserving stocks but on quotas it appears to favour multilateral talks which would include Argentina, rather than a straightforward 200-mile fishing limit, which is standard practise elsewhere in the world.

Lord Shackleton and many islanders feel the Government is still afraid of provoking the Argentines into any kind of provocation. But as almost every islander is aware, a fishing limit is hardly as provocative as the building of a £276 million international airport. And there was no pussyfooting about that.

Anne Sofer

High strategy, low tactics

Leaks from the Labour Party continue to reach me. The following is a transcript of a recent meeting of the Barsetshire County Council Labour Group.

Councillor Terry Trenchman: Well, comrades, welcome to this first meeting of the new group. I think we can congratulate ourselves on a commendable showing in the county council elections. We have certainly got the Tories on the run and can regard these elections as the first step to the return of a Labour government. (Cries of "hear, hear".) And may I say, comrades, that if I have anything to do with it it will be a socialist government too. (Cheers.) However, as you all know, we face a tricky situation now in Shire Hall. The Tories have 30 councillors, we have 16 and the so-called Alliance - if you will forgive me for using a dirty word - (laughter) have 15. Obviously we need a full discussion of tactics. Who'd like to start? Peter.

Councillor Peter Partylane: Thank you comrade chair. What I want to say to all comrades here, with all proper seriousness, is that the one thing we must avoid at all costs is any form of co-operation of any description whatsoever with the so-called Alliance, particularly so long as it contains any of those traitors who joined the Social Diseases Party. (Cries of "dirty scabs", etc.) I give my word that I will have nothing to do with any of them. (Applause.)

Councillor Wendy Wobblers: Chairman (cries of "Address the chair correctly", "sexist", etc.) Sorry chairman, I mean chair. I agree absolutely about the SDP. I mean I can't stand them. I mean I just throw up every time David Owen appears on the telly. But I've got real problems in my ward, and I think we have to think very carefully. The Tories are planning to close our nursery, and of course during the election campaign I pledged that I would do everything in my power to keep it open. The Alliance candidate did too, and as you all know I only beat her by 27 votes. If we put the Tories back in instead of co-operating with the Alliance, she can turn round and say it's my fault if the nursery closure goes ahead.

Councillor Malcolm Maverick: I agree with Wendy. We've got to face reality, comrades. In fact I've been doing just that and I've had quite a few chats with Alliance people in the downy comfort of my car. I'm recommending, right? But I know there are strong feelings, and it might be regarded as a matter of conscience for some comrades. And we've never applied a three-time whip in matters of conscience, have we? And we all know the arithmetic. Enough said? Right. (Chuckles, guffaws, mutters of "he's a shrewd old bird, is Terry".) Fortunately, comrades, we're just in time for a pint at the Setting Sun. Meeting adjourned.

The author is SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for St Pancras North.

Julie Davidson

Who will be best of the fests?

Glasgow Browning, rather too late (it finished last weekend) through the modest, unpretentious programme of Mayfest, Glasgow's community-based, socialist-inspired, local authority-endowed, trade union-supported, anti-elitist answer to the Edinburgh Festival, I came across this enthusiastic note for a production of *Measure for Measure*.

At last Glasgow's chance to see Kist Theatre Company's outstandingly intelligent, original and witty production of Shakespeare's "problem" play which was such a resounding success at last year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe...

Wait a minute. Isn't this admission of a "resounding success" from Edinburgh also an admission of defeat? Is adventurous Glasgow content to follow where cautious Edinburgh has already been? The Glasgow festival's name may be unfortunate, like some seasonal species of garden pest (which is indeed how many perceive its infestations of street theatre), but when Mayfest first invaded the Clyde-side consciousness three years ago its spirit was independent.

It did not trawl for talent among last year's productions at the Edinburgh Fringe. It found its own, often abroad. This year, too, it has not neglected its internationalism. There have been the Joel Hall Dancers, described as "Chicago's national dance company". And there has been the Folk Dance Ensemble of the Marie Curie Sklodowska University in Lublin, Poland.

But there are also more names familiar from Edinburgh's Fringe on the programme and if the trend continues then even Scotland's loyal theatre critics (who, alone among those who constitute the critical Establishment, have much enthusiasm for Mayfest) indicate that disaffection will follow.

Music and the visual arts are not strongly represented, which induces a certain bafflement in their partisans. Not even the indigenous originality and passionate community relevance of the exhibition at the People's Palace Museum on Glasgow Green ("Tennant's Lager Centenary Exhibition: a look at the production and marketing of Scotland's oldest lager") was enough to excite one of Scotland's leading art critics, who dismissed Mayfest as "a lot of fuss about very little".

But that is the view of the pursuer of excellence. As a dedicated amateur consumer of the arts (that is, someone who hardly ever gets to anything but enjoys the entertainment value to be found in cultural politics) I would be sad if Glasgow's festival lost its way at a time when

the city itself is recovering its place in the cultural sun.

Gone are the days when Glaswegians themselves invited the charge of philistinism by dismissing everyone from Edinburgh - and most particularly those who affected to enjoy the arts - as "pseudos and posers". The second insult was very much "poser" and not "pseudos", which in itself is the kind of word a posour would use, and the phrase rolled off the tongue as one word, "pseudosposers", much as Mrs Thatcher has made one indivisible word of "freedomandjustice".

Today there is the Citizens Theatre, a byword for innovation and dramatic excitement, which actually manages regularly to pack houses for what the director, Giles Havergal, calls "really very unconventional" and quite difficult theatre. Today there is an opera house, the converted Theatre Royal, home base for Scottish Opera, while Edinburgh has a Sheraton Hotel in the hole which its opera house was once intended to fill.

And today Glasgow's city fathers can boast that last year more people visited their splendid new Burrell Museum (public password: "the building is better than the collection") than visited Edinburgh Castle.

Today's Edinburgh's city fathers, a Labour administration pledged to smash the elitism of the Edinburgh Festival and "bring it closer to the people", are looking wistfully to Glasgow for lessons in democratizing the arts. But their imagination falters; distracted, perhaps, by the need to counter the latest plot to deprive them of their majority membership of the influential Festival Council (whose vice-chairman is claiming that as the event receives less than one third of its income from Edinburgh District Council it has no right to dominate the Festival Council).

What, then, have the capital's civic leaders done to lower the brows of this year's festival? Cynics claim to have observed their influence on the programme, which includes the curious pairing of two popular but elderly performers, Yehudi Menuhin and Rudolf Nureyev, to play and dance Bach in the Usher Hall. But the district council itself so far claims only one achievement: a soccer match between Bayern Munich and an Edinburgh select side on August 13.

This, I feel, is a stroke of genius with far-reaching international consequences. It means there will now be year when football isn't being played somewhere in Europe.

سكرا من الامن



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COLD WARSAW SPRING

The fact that the Polish government is going ahead with the trial of three well-known opposition leaders in Gdansk, despite international protests, is only one of several bad signs which have recently emerged from Poland. Solidarity leaders and advisers are being liberally persecuted once again. After last year's summer amnesty there was only a handful of political prisoners left in Poland's jails and hopeful observers looked forward to new attempts at reconciliation between the regime and the people; this spring there are estimated to be at least 150 political prisoners. What is more, the Jaruzelski government is systematically changing the country's laws so as to make any form of independent human activity potentially a punishable offence. Even on paper, the law in General Jaruzelski's Poland is increasingly departing from the basic standards of European jurisprudence, despite the courageous efforts of many Polish lawyers to defend those standards. In this new dispensation, law is the continuation of political policing by other means.

It may safely be predicted that these new legal provisions, and the summary judicial procedures which accompany them (courts martial in civil garb) will in practice be used mainly against the whole spectrum of independent and opposition activities still being pursued in the spirit of Solidarity. The threat is by no means confined to those activi-

ties which the Western television viewer immediately associates with Solidarity: a strike, a street demonstration on May 1 or a speech by Lech Walesa.

Proposed amendments to the Higher Education Act are a good example. If these become law, the universities will lose even the limited autonomy and internal freedom they currently enjoy. Everyone from students to professors will be liable to summary dismissal by the Minister, on political grounds. Poland's academic and intellectual community has been almost unanimous in condemning these proposals. Even the government's own favoured consultative body, the Patriotic Movement for National Salvation (PRON), has declared itself against them. Yet the government now seems determined to steamroller the repressive amendments through Parliament before the summer is out.

The history of the last few months in Poland may therefore be seen as one of police successes and political failures. These are political failures defined in Soviet terms, because the repressive "normalization" is not being conducted mainly through the Communist Party, as in Moscow's view it always should be. Indeed, the fact that the Jaruzelski government has to work through the courts is further evidence of the collapse of the Party. Where Party control is effective and all-pervasive, as in the Soviet Union, the authori-

ties do not need to work through the law.

But these have been political failures also in the terms which the Jaruzelski government seems to have set itself. For it would be wrong to suggest that the last year has seen the implementation of a single, consistent policy. Consistent is what the Jaruzelski government is not. Thus last summer's amnesty seemed to offer the chance of a political opening to the population - but the government then proved unable to seize the chance it had created for itself, at least during the month until the murder of Father Popieluszko cast all else in shadow. By taking the unprecedented step of putting secret police murderers on public trial the government seemed to extend another open hand to the people, but by the accompanying barrage of anti-church propaganda - which still continues - it destroyed any credibility it might otherwise have won.

On present form there is less chance than ever of its winning the active cooperation of the working class or the intelligentsia in the essential task of economic reconstruction. On the terms it is currently offering its citizens the most it can hope for is to induce hopelessness: exhaustion, apathy, resignation in the face of a formidable police state. But even this must be a faint hope. There are few people more difficult to reduce to hopelessness than the Poles.

THE LABEL'S MESSAGE

Absurd decisions by European Community institutions make wonderful ammunition for those who wish to sabotage membership. Those who favour co-operation to break down trading barriers should expose and oppose such decisions rather than look the other way or act as embarrassed apologists.

The recent ruling by the European Court of Justice that the British Government's statutory order on origin marking contravened article 30 of the Treaty of Rome provides a particularly offensive case in point. The order provided that shops could only sell clothing, textile goods, home electrical appliances, footwear and cutlery labelled with the name of the country in which the goods were manufactured or produced. Article 30 of the EEC Treaty simply states that "quantitative restrictions on imports and all measures having equivalent effect shall be prohibited between member states". It does not obviously have anything to do with providing the consumer with information about the origin of goods.

To make the case fit the principle, the court argued that, since the burden of origin marking would eventually fall upon the producer this would "have the effect of increasing the production costs of imported goods" and making it more difficult to sell them on the British market. Yet different rules for labelling goods for different national markets are taken for granted by exporters round the world (and within the

EEC). The extra cost of origin labelling is nugatory.

The court's true argument was that origin labelling, by allowing consumers to distinguish between domestic and imported goods "enabled them to assert any prejudices which they might have against foreign products". The judges clearly took a dim view of the chauvinistic tendencies of the average British consumer, rejecting a British Government offer to accept the designation "made in the European Community". In practice, British prejudices are as likely to favour a German-made car or an Italian suit over a British one, or even a Japanese brand television set made in Japan over the same brand made domestically - as our manufacturers know to their cost.

In any case, the individual as contrasted with the treaty-bound nation, has every right to exercise whatever prejudice he likes. It is for the individual to decide whether a product made in France, Russia or South Africa will give him more or less satisfaction than a similar product made elsewhere, and not for the European Court of Justice. Prejudice is as much part of consumer choice as value for money, quite apart from the national information that origin labelling may give. British manufacturers who have eschewed calls for protection are likewise right to be angry that, when a British industry is threatened by imports, the consumer cannot even be given the information to back home production and employment if he so

wishes. Information is the friend of the consumer and the tool of choice. To suppress information is to misunderstand how free trade and consumer choice work through the market mechanism to give us what we, rather than bureaucrats, want.

There is no appeal from the European Court of Justice, even though, in this case, the court was delivering an initial judgement. To defy the court on such a mundane matter would be self-defeating. The Department of Trade and Industry is therefore merely considering how it can best comply. That in itself brings complications. The judgement could not rule out a new statutory order applying only to goods from outside the Community. But such discrimination would at least be against the spirit of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs.

The Government could make a more vigorous response short of seeking to amend the Treaty of Rome. We could challenge the court to rule on an alternative order that included the European Community as a whole as a source of origin, or try to persuade the European Commission to promote secondary legislation under the treaty that would supersede the judgement. The issue at hand may seem too trivial to bother. But the European Court of Justice has become part of our constitution. Where there is no appeal from a court, it is important to establish some ready legislative mechanism, such as we have within Britain, for correcting judgements that run so patently against common sense.

ARGENTINA AND AUSTERITY

A month ago President Alfonsín announced to the crowd in the Plaza de Mayo that real sacrifices were inevitable and would be imposed. A section of the crowd left the square in protest. Earlier this month the trial began of the members of the successive military juntas that governed Argentina between 1976 and 1982. A major bank went into liquidation. Inflation reached 1 per cent a day, a rate exceeded only by Bolivia. The General Confederation of Labour called a general strike last Thursday, and filled the Plaza de Mayo with another substantial gathering.

If President Alfonsín and Mrs Thatcher could converse, they would find at least one common theme in how slowly under democracies the old gives birth to the new. There were certainly new elements apparent in last month's Argentine politics. The President's rhetoric changed, both in his April 26 speech and in his subsequent May Presidential Message. There was a new emphasis on Argentine responsibility for the errors of the past, on the evils of rampant speculation, the dubious origins of recent fleeting prosperities. Hyper-inflation, an economy one-quarter black, tax-system less progressive than that of Haiti - these abuses could not continue. The President called for a return to values of hard work, for the restructuring of proper economic relationships,

for de-regulation and modernization. His remarks on education could well have been drafted by Sir Keith Joseph. Mr Alfonsín is frequently courageous, and was not afraid to announce some of these new truths from a balcony better known as a source of old illusion.

However, government through popular rally is itself a sign of the persistence of an older Argentina, and opposition through walk-out and counter-rally is also part of that older Argentina. A special breed of observer calibrates the failure or success of these turn-outs, and last month's score on that measurement is said to show honours about even. However, that most likely confirms that one should now look for the real balance of political forces elsewhere. Argentine politics have changed since a decade ago the Montoneros marched out of that same Plaza. The pace of change may be depressingly slow - where is it fast? - but it is better than repetition.

President Alfonsín's announced change of direction is made in a new political context. First, it is impossible in the present juncture for his political opponents to appeal to military intervention. Conservative elements no longer see the armed forces as reliable, and in Argentina it has always taken more than a few civilians to produce

military rule. Trades union leaders, however practised they are at dealing with generals in power, cannot now risk being seen to favour any such outcome: the notoriety of Peronist union-military collaboration had quite a lot to do with the Radical Party's 1983 electoral success. Secondly, President Alfonsín dominates the Radical Party, and the Radicals still dominate the political scene. His personal popularity is still high. The Peronist opposition has divided in a fashion that gives little promise of any eventual unification. Peron never liked the idea of a well-structured party, and it looks too late now for his followers to begin to build one.

The third new element is the President himself. He is not an economist, and though that in itself was no disadvantage, he took office with a package of economic ideas that were neither appropriate for explaining the origins of Argentina's difficulties nor for getting her out of them. But he has shown an ability to learn, and to admit to learning. He has now opened wide the real economic debate. His increased realism will be put to the political test of Congressional elections in November. Argentines with long memories recall that in 1952 Peron managed to sustain his popularity in spite of economic austerity. Mr Alfonsín faces a graver crisis, but he better deserves to succeed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Skills and virtues at the universities

From Mr Max Taylor

Sir, Your leader on universities today (May 22) is welcome, not least when it talks about "transferable intellectual and personal skills". The skills universities teach are those of the laboratory and the library: as far as many personal skills are concerned, they merely freeze growth for three years. It is because many young graduates are so inept (in everything except technical skill) that good old traditional British industries have made such poor use of their brains and remain the anti-intellectual places they are.

The ingredients universities miss are, first, what we might call the practical virtues - enterprise, persistence, courage, sympathy, justice (these can't be taught, but can certainly be developed in the right environment); and secondly, the generalised skills of getting things done - setting worthwhile objectives, leading, planning, persuading, co-operating, listening.

These can be taught - both the armed services and management schools do so, for their own specialised purposes. The Youth Training Scheme is also meant to do some of this - for those whom conventional education has largely failed.

Perhaps the worst result of our system is that undergraduates have so little idea of what they are good at. Learning and doing in quite different mental muscles - and most undergraduates have never stretched themselves in any active role, or been taught to review their experience.

Perhaps we could throw away

Plato (whose influence in education has been disastrous) and try a bit of Aristotle instead. If universities could widen their vision and produce something more like a complete man or woman, their contribution would be far more valuable. Yours faithfully, MAX TAYLOR, 44 Northumberland Place, W.2, May 22.

From the Chief Executive of The British Library

Sir, I welcome the recognition in the Green Paper on *The Development of Higher Education into the 1990s* (paragraph 5.15) of the importance of adequately resourced library facilities in helping to sustain research in the humanities.

Given the overall emphasis of the Green Paper I am surprised no corresponding reference is made to the essential support given by libraries to research in science and technology. Of an average 12,000 requests for documents answered every working day by the lending division of the British Library three quarters are for scientific and technological papers. Nor does this include the extensive use made of our scientific reference library and its information services supporting innovation, business and research.

Yours faithfully, KENNETH COOPER, Chief Executive, The British Library, 2 Sheraton Street, W.1, May 23.

No orchids for our heritage

From Mr A.F. Porter

Sir, The sad tale of the attempted destruction of a botanically important orchid-meadow in Essex, reported both in your pages (May 16 and 17) and on television, raises many issues both of principle and practice.

I am the discoverer of *Epipactis youngiana*, the first orchid species new to science to be discovered in these islands. I believe, for very many years, I have occasionally helped to secure the protection of botanically important sites from destruction and for many years I was involved in both urban and rural land development. My observations may therefore be regarded as acceptably even-handed.

The Essex case - reportedly involving the spraying with weed killer of a meadow with some 15,000 specimens of *Orchis morio*, the green-winged orchid, which is no longer common anywhere - serves to remind us of several factors which, if "heritage" is to mean anything at all, must not be overlooked.

First, sites which have an established scientific importance have achieved that status in a national, or even international, context and are never merely locally important.

Secondly, if sites which merit recognition are to achieve the protection they deserve to achieve it must be honoured locally by all public bodies which might in any way be involved with the sites for similar nationally justified reasons.

Thirdly, if the deliberate destruction of plant life removes the scientific importance of a specific site, planning authorities ought, in the interests of the rest of us, to refuse planning permission for any development for which planning permission would have been refused had that deliberate destruction not taken place.

It is ironic, if the reported facts are true, that in Essex conservationists, whose interests are arguably to be equated in this case with the national interest, were deterred by eight policemen from impeding the nocturnal weed-spraying activities of an intending developer, whose interests are arguably limited to himself and the purchasers of the seven houses he hopes to build on the site.

It is equally ironic that this bizarre episode should have occurred at a time when so much attention is being given to the protection of the countryside and any noticeable act of destruction attracts both acute attention and anger.

Yours faithfully, A.F. PORTER, 16 Hawthorn Way, Darras Hall, Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne, May 19.

Levin's loyalties

From Mr Ian Grist, MP for Cardiff Central (Conservative)

Sir, When Bernard Levin wrote May 21 that "he certainly voted for them (i.e. Labour) in 1955 and 1959" memory stirred.

Sure enough in the issue of *The Spectator* of October 2, 1959, we find him telling us "That is why I hope that the Liberals poll well and why I indeed, living in a non-marginal seat, shall vote for them". This was no flash in the pan for he told us the same in the issue of September 4.

If he didn't in the end carry out his intention perhaps we could be told why. Was the constituency marginal after all - or just his memory?

Yours faithfully, IAN GRIST, House of Commons, May 22.

Cardiff's concert hall

From Mr Alan Vaughan Williams

Sir, In his article (May 9) on the Dallas Symphony Orchestra Paul Griffiths praised the city's enterprise in building a concert hall. Previewing the orchestra's visit to Britain he mentioned Nottingham, the Festival Hall and the Barbican.

Curiously, he forgot to include Cardiff, thus repeating an omission made in your pages when Gilbert Kaplan visited Britain and to which you allowed me to draw attention at that time (December 15).

Cardiff does not have the burgeoning financial resources of Dallas, so it is perhaps to its greater credit that it also has built a new concert hall in these difficult times. Its enterprise in thus enabling us to welcome Kaplan and now the Dallas Symphony Orchestra deserves recognition, or at least a mention.

Yours faithfully, ALAN VAUGHAN WILLIAMS, 92 Ninian Road, Roath Park, Cardiff, May 11.

Medical charges

From Mr R. L. S. Coulson

Sir, During the past 12 months I have paid privately to see a number of medical specialists in the Midlands. The charges have varied between £1 and £1.50 per minute.

On one occasion when sending the payment, I requested clarification of two simple points connected with the verbal diagnosis. I was told that answering these two questions would cost me a further £1.50 per minute "plus overheads". One of the specialists admitted that clients who were insured were charged more than those paying out of their own pocket.

It is regrettable that the greatest threat to the continuance of private medicine may come not from a future Labour government but from those within the medical profession who are now extracting so many golden eggs from a quiescent goose.

Yours sincerely, R. L. S. COULSON, The Paddock, Brampton Ash, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, May 15.

Malaysian touchdown

From Lieutenant-Commander M. Ogden, RN (ret)

Sir, The fourth paragraph of Mr Stephen Taylor's report from Singapore (May 7) contains an historical inaccuracy. It stated that "In the build-up to Sarawak, offensive aircraft of the Singapore Air Force landed on Malaysian soil last month for the first time since the island split from the federation amid bitter recrimination in 1965".

In fact, the first time that SAF aircraft landed in Malaysia since the split occurred on January 15, 1970, when I led a section (two aircraft) of BAC 167 Strikemasters from Tengah to the RMAF base at Kuala Lumpur. Furthermore, only four days later I led another section of Strikemasters from Tengah to the RMAF station at Kuantan. At that time I held the appointment of Chief Flying Instructor to the SAF, then in its infancy.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL OGDEN, 118 London Road, Sunningdale, Near Ascot, Berkshire, May 15.

Fate of County Hall

From Lord Molson

Sir, There are suggestions that after the abolition of the Greater London Council the Government will, in the course of realising the council's assets, sell the County Hall. This is a decision which cannot usefully be raised in the prolonged and detailed parliamentary proceedings on the Local Government Bill.

Surely County Hall is deserving of a better fate. It may not be a beautiful building nor even to the taste of everybody. It is, however, a handsome and impressive building and well proportioned. More important, it occupies a dignified place on the Thames and almost opposite the Houses of Parliament. Its use should take into account all those features.

No rare visitor

From Dr David Ames

Sir, I suspect that Sir Georg Solti, British subject and resident, about to appear on a London podium for the thirteenth time within six months, might recent being described as a "rare visitor to the capital" (caption, May 4). If so frequently sighted a conductor as Sir Georg is to be categorized as a "rare avis", does that make Herbert von Karajan (one appearance in 12 months) an endangered species?

Yours faithfully, DAVID AMES, 76C Fairhead Gardens, NW6, May 4.

Of human bondage

From Miss Julia Bueno

Sir, Mr Hall's dilemma (May 21) is easily resolved. For the past two or three years my father has collected Post Office rubber bands which I have made into a rubber band ball, the circumference of which is 25.5cm; it weighs 8.5lb.

Yours faithfully, J. BUENO, 7 Pitt Street, W.8, May 21.

No genius for jobs

From Mr Leon A. Pieters

Sir, Mr Mitchell's letter (May 18) on the failure of the information technology industry is much nearer to assessing the present UK status than your leader (May 15). Neither, however, gets near to the real problem why the UK lags behind in industrial terms and the inability to convert research into products to be exploited.

A major difference between our competitors and the UK is the background of the senior management, which is 85 to 95 per cent technological in Japan and the USA among others, while being less than 15 per cent here.

Soviet treaty violations

From Air Chief Marshal Sir Theodore McEvoy

Sir, In your leader "Thinking long" (May 14) you make timely reference to Soviet duplicity. Western reaction about such things has given the Soviet Union free scope to spread the propaganda that has led many, not only on "the left", to lump America and Russia together as equally malign.

I have a list of 30 treaties violated by the Soviets between 1939 and 1945. Since then there have been many more violations (such as, for instance, Helsinki agreements) but the Foreign Office decline to publish or even mention them.

We ought to know what the Soviet record is in these matters so that we can judge how much to rely on their word. It would therefore be valuable for all Soviet treaty violations to be made public.

To avoid bias, the list should be accompanied by a list of treaties, if any, violated by the West over the same period. If the Foreign Office will not oblige, perhaps it can be left to investigative journalism.

Yours faithfully, THEO MCEVOY, 75a Boundstone Road, Rowledge, Farnham, Surrey, May 14.

aided and abetted by the education system, denigrates "engineering" as a non-worthy profession, and prefers non-technical subjects as being more respectable.

My qualifications for making the above comments are only that I have founded myself a company operating successfully in the high-technology end of the electronics industry, and was educated in an environment which regarded engineering as a very respectable occupation. Yours faithfully, LEON A. PIETERS, Strathroy, Station Road, Collingham, Newark, Nottinghamshire, May 20.

ON THIS DAY

MAY 27, 1868

On December 13, 1867, there was an attempt at Clerkenwell house of detention by Fenians to release one of their number by blowing a hole in the prison wall. Twelve innocent people were killed in the explosion and 150 injured. A number of suspects were rounded up and all but one escaped conviction. The exception was Michael Barrett who, on the evidence of a prisoner who turned Queen's evidence, was arrested, tried, found guilty, and executed on May 26 - the last person to suffer that penalty in public in England. At the trial Barrett pleaded an alibi, and it has been said he was speaking the truth and was not guilty of the crime.

THE EXECUTION OF BARRETT

Yesterday morning, in the presence of a vast concourse of spectators, Michael Barrett, the author of the Clerkenwell Explosion, was hanged in front of Newgate. In its circumstances there was very little to distinguish this from ordinary executions. The crowd was greater, perhaps, and better behaved; still, from the peculiar atrocity of the crime for which Barrett suffered, and from the fact of its being probably the last public execution in England, it deserves more than usual notice. Probably in the history of criminal trials there is none which affords such proof of patient investigation, of long, anxious, and deliberate searching after truth. The defence of the alibi is, of course, the best or the worst in the world. . . . This was the defence of Barrett, and it failed most signally. . . . The crowd was more than usually orderly, but it was not a crowd in which one would like to trust. It is said that one sees on the road to the Derby such animals as are never seen elsewhere; so on an execution morning one sees faces that are never seen save round a gallows. . . . Some laughed, some coughed, some sneezed, some gave trills, and some sang hymns; but what may be called the general good-humoured disorder of the crowd remained the same, and there was cheering at the prisoner's silence when an open robber's was taken place.

It is equally ironic that this bizarre episode should have occurred at a time when so much attention is being given to the protection of the countryside and any noticeable act of destruction attracts both acute attention and anger. Yours faithfully, A.F. PORTER, 16 Hawthorn Way, Darras Hall, Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne, May 19.

With the first sound of the bells came a great hungry roar from the crowd outside, and a loud, continued shout of "Halt! Halt!" till they were dense, bareheaded men, white and ghastly-looking in the morning sun, and the pressure on the barriers increased so that the girls and women in the front began to scream and struggle to get free. Among such a scene as this, and before such a dense crowd of white faces, Barrett was executed. His clergyman came first. Barrett mounted the steps with the most perfect firmness. This may seem a stereotyped phrase, but it really means more than is generally imagined. To ascend a ladder with one's arms and hands closely pinioned would be at all times difficult but to climb a ladder to go to certain death, with the nerves of the boldest, Barrett walked up coolly and boldly. His face was as white as marble, but still he bore himself with firmness, and his demeanour was far removed from the bravado as from fear. We would not dwell on these details, but from the singular reception he met as he came out upon the scaffold. There was a partial burst of cheers, which were instantly accompanied by loud hisses, and so it remained for some seconds: at the last moment approached the masts dwindled down to a dead silence. To neither cheering nor hisses did the culprit make the slightest reaction. He seemed only attentive to what the priest was saying to him, and to be engaged in fervent prayer. The hangman instantly put the cap over his face and the rope round his neck. Then Barrett turning spoke through his cap and asked for the rope to be altered, which the hangman did. In another moment Barrett was a dead man. After the bolt was drawn and the drop fell with the loud boom which always echoes from it, Barrett never moved. He died without a struggle. . . .

Janus effect

From the Bishop of Warwick

Sir, Philip Howard is in action again (May 15). This time hunting for auto-antonyms. How can he therefore have overlooked that contemporary quarry, action? It can mean what we think it means, or, in its industrial sense, the opposite. Yours faithfully, KEITH WARWICK, Warwick House, 9 Armorial Road, Coventry, West Midlands.

From Mr W. J. Nesbitt

Sir, May I suggest two more Janus words: "buckle" means "collapse" or "fasten firmly"; "with" means "beside" or "against" ("He fought with his brother"). Yours faithfully, W. J. NESBITT, Roselands, Ambleside, Cumbria.

RUGBY UNION: AUCKLAND DEFEAT ALERTS TOURING SIDE

England lose way playing in their own territory

From David Hands
Rugby Correspondent
Auckland

Auckland.....24
England.....6

There were some bouquets for England after they had become Auckland's sixteenth overseas victim of the last four years at Eden Park on Saturday. England's inept skills apart, the usual worthy but slightly stodgy compliments were expressed, about commitment, industry, willingness to tackle. England lost by three goals and two penalty goals to a goal against possibly the best provincial side in the world whose players might not have performed as well as they might have done. The silver lining to this particular cloud is that England can be under no illusions about their task in the week leading up to Saturday's first international.

The competition for places will remain intense. The players are keen to recognize and erase their faults in training. In addition, sessions to those already planned. It will not be so easy to instill the ability to play high-risk rather than percentage rugby, which is an attitude of mind. If England are to make a positive contribution to this two-match series, they must move the ball wide, away from the home back rows whose ball-winning capacity is so much greater.

For some inculpable reason the Auckland supporters club made Kiwan, the wing, their man of the match. Good player though he may be this was a gross insult to the Auckland back row and to McDowell, the lively prop forward, whose support and link work, speed to the ball and strength in the maul was outstanding. Hart, a shrewd observer, suggested English players will always be beaten for loose ball against the better New Zealand sides because they do not drive low into the scrums.

On Saturday England played into Auckland hands by the insistence on creating second-phase ball. It will not have missed their attention that Auckland's three tries came from set pieces and their own from a lineout, that is from first-phase possession. England did not get out of such possession but they could neither control nor create from it.

England's other problem was geography. Some 75 per cent of the game was played in English territory, particularly in the first half when they did well to keep



A jump ahead: Preston Grasshoppers' Dooley in a lineout tussle with Whetton of Auckland

the interval margin to 12-0. It is hard to play attacking rugby 70 metres away from the try-line with well-prepared opponents breathing down your neck. Barnes was forced to kick for touch much of the time but at least the lineout was one phase which ended on level terms.

Haden, Auckland's captain described England's pack as the most aggressive unit Auckland have encountered in recent times, and the best lineout ball-winners seen at Eden Park since 1977. Haden was particularly warm in his praise for Dooley, who he made make up his mind by night whether he will ride the lineout, the trainer said, or whether he will offer the maul to Bill Shoemaker.

Although Lanfranco, an impressive winner at Goodwood last week is owned by Piggott's old friend and ally, Charles de George, it will come as no surprise if the 11-times champion attempts to delay his decision as long as possible. Jeremy Tree and Dermot Weld, are still seeking jobs for

Bairn doubtful as Piggott linked with Lanfranco

By Michael Seely

Bairn, one of the favourites for the Derby, became a doubtful runner for the big race after a disappointing gallop at Newmarket yesterday. Piggott's stablemate, Lester, was switched to Lanfranco as the all-time master of Epsom attempts to claim his 10th Derby on Wednesday night. The horse went very well for a mile, but the way he finished, planned a doubt in my mind that he might not last the trip to Epsom. I'm going to think about it for a few days before making a final decision.

This is a sensational development, as no horse that can in the 2,000 Guineas showed more likely evidence of stamina than Sheikh Mohammed's three-year-old as he ran Standed to a last-ditching head. Together with Old Country, Kala Dancer and Dubai, the joint favourite for the Oaks, Bairn needed 10 furlongs to cover the round the Kowley Mile course in a mixed gallop. They turned left-handed at the end of the straight and sprinted for about two and a half furlongs. The gallop was won by Old Country, who is due to take on Rainbow Quest and Circus Plume in the Coronation Cup.

Henry Cecil is now putting the pressure on the Piggott. "I told Lester that he must make up his mind by night whether he will ride the lineout," the trainer said, "or whether he will offer the maul to Bill Shoemaker." Although Lanfranco, an impressive winner at Goodwood last week is owned by Piggott's old friend and ally, Charles de George, it will come as no surprise if the 11-times champion attempts to delay his decision as long as possible. Jeremy Tree and Dermot Weld, are still seeking jobs for

SANDOWN PARK

Going: good to soft
Draw advantage: 7-1m, high numbers best
2.0 ANN SOLEYN MAIDEN FILLES STAKES (2-y-o: £2,785: 5f) (10 runners)
100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-1222-1223-1224-1225-1226-1227-1228-1229-1230-1231-1232-1233-1234-1235-1236-1237-1238-1239-1240-1241-1242-1243-1244-1245-1246-1247-1248-1249-1250-1251-1252-1253-1254-1255-1256-1257-1258-1259-1260-1261-1262-1263-1264-1265-1266-1267-1268-1269-1270-1271-1272-1273-1274-1275-1276-1277-1278-1279-1280-1281-1282-1283-1284-1285-1286-1287-1288-1289-1290-1291-1292-1293-1294-1295-1296-1297-1298-1299-1300-1301-1302-1303-1304-1305-1306-1307-1308-1309-1310-1311-1312-1313-1314-1315-1316-1317-1318-1319-1320-1321-1322-1323-1324-1325-1326-1327-1328-1329-1330-1331-1332-1333-1334-1335-1336-1337-1338-1339-1340-1341-1342-1343-1344-1345-1346-1347-1348-1349-1350-1351-1352-1353-1354-1355-1356-1357-1358-1359-1360-1361-1362-1363-1364-1365-1366-1367-1368-1369-1370-1371-1372-1373-1374-1375-1376-1377-1378-1379-1380-1381-1382-1383-1384-1385-1386-1387-1388-1389-1390-1391-1392-1393-1394-1395-1396-1397-1398-1399-1400-1401-1402-1403-1404-1405-1406-1407-1408-1409-1410-1411-1412-1413-1414-1415-1416-1417-1418-1419-1420-1421-1422-1423-1424-1425-1426-1427-1428-1429-1430-1431-1432-1433-1434-1435-1436-1437-1438-1439-1440-1441-1442-1443-1444-1445-1446-1447-1448-1449-1450-1451-1452-1453-1454-1455-1456-1457-1458-1459-1460-1461-1462-1463-1464-1465-1466-1467-1468-1469-1470-1471-1472-1473-1474-1475-1476-1477-1478-1479-1480-1481-1482-1483-1484-1485-1486-1487-1488-1489-1490-1491-1492-1493-1494-1495-1496-1497-1498-1499-1500-1501-1502-1503-1504-1505-1506-1507-1508-1509-1510-1511-1512-1513-1514-1515-1516-1517-1518-1519-1520-1521-1522-1523-1524-1525-1526-1527-1528-1529-1530-1531-1532-1533-1534-1535-1536-1537-1538-1539-1540-1541-1542-1543-1544-1545-1546-1547-1548-1549-1550-1551-1552-1553-1554-1555-1556-1557-1558-1559-1560-1561-1562-1563-1564-1565-1566-1567-1568-1569-1570-1571-1572-1573-1574-1575-1576-1577-1578-1579-1580-1581-1582-1583-1584-1585-1586-1587-1588-1589-1590-1591-1592-1593-1594-1595-1596-1597-1598-1599-1600-1601-1602-1603-1604-1605-1606-1607-1608-1609-1610-1611-1612-1613-1614-1615-1616-1617-1618-1619-1620-1621-1622-1623-1624-1625-1626-1627-1628-1629-1630-1631-1632-1633-1634-1635-1636-1637-1638-1639-1640-1641-1642-1643-1644-1645-1646-1647-1648-1649-1650-1651-1652-1653-1654-1655-1656-1657-1658-1659-1660-1661-1662-1663-1664-1665-1666-1667-1668-1669-1670-1671-1672-1673-1674-1675-1676-1677-1678-1679-1680-1681-1682-1683-1684-1685-1686-1687-1688-1689-1690-1691-1692-1693-1694-1695-1696-1697-1698-1699-1700-1701-1702-1703-1704-1705-1706-1707-1708-1709-1710-1711-1712-1713-1714-1715-1716-1717-1718-1719-1720-1721-1722-1723-1724-1725-1726-1727-1728-1729-1730-1731-1732-1733-1734-1735-1736-1737-1738-1739-1740-1741-1742-1743-1744-1745-1746-1747-1748-1749-1750-1751-1752-1753-1754-1755-1756-1757-1758-1759-1760-1761-1762-1763-1764-1765-1766-1767-1768-1769-1770-1771-1772-1773-1774-1775-1776-1777-1778-1779-1780-1781-1782-1783-1784-1785-1786-1787-1788-1789-1790-1791-1792-1793-1794-1795-1796-1797-1798-1799-1800-1801-1802-1803-1804-1805-1806-1807-1808-1809-1810-1811-1812-1813-1814-1815-1816-1817-1818-1819-1820-1821-1822-1823-1824-1825-1826-1827-1828-1829-1830-1831-1832-1833-1834-1835-1836-1837-1838-1839-1840-1841-1842-1843-1844-1845-1846-1847-1848-1849-1850-1851-1852-1853-1854-1855-1856-1857-1858-1859-1860-1861-1862-1863-1864-1865-1866-1867-1868-1869-1870-1871-1872-1873-1874-1875-1876-1877-1878-1879-1880-1881-1882-1883-1884-1885-1886-1887-1888-1889-1890-1891-1892-1893-1894-1895-1896-1897-1898-1899-1900-1901-1902-1903-1904-1905-1906-1907-1908-1909-1910-1911-1912-1913-1914-1915-1916-1917-1918-1919-1920-1921-1922-1923-1924-1925-1926-1927-1928-1929-1930-1931-1932-1933-1934-1935-1936-1937-1938-1939-1940-1941-1942-1943-1944-1945-1946-1947-1948-1949-1950-1951-1952-1953-1954-1955-1956-1957-1958-1959-1960-1961-1962-1963-1964-1965-1966-1967-1968-1969-1970-1971-1972-1973-1974-1975-1976-1977-1978-1979-1980-1981-1982-1983-1984-1985-1986-1987-1988-1989-1990-1991-1992-1993-1994-1995-1996-1997-1998-1999-2000-2001-2002-2003-2004-2005-2006-2007-2008-2009-2010-2011-2012-2013-2014-2015-2016-2017-2018-2019-2020-2021-2022-2023-2024-2025-2026-2027-2028-2029-2030-2031-2032-2033-2034-2035-2036-2037-2038-2039-2040-2041-2042-2043-2044-2045-2046-2047-2048-2049-2050-2051-2052-2053-2054-2055-2056-2057-2058-2059-2060-2061-2062-2063-2064-2065-2066-2067-2068-2069-2070-2071-2072-2073-2074-2075-2076-2077-2078-2079-2080-2081-2082-2083-2084-2085-2086-2087-2088-2089-2090-2091-2092-2093-2094-2095-2096-2097-2098-2099-2100-2101-2102-2103-2104-2105-2106-2107-2108-2109-2110-2111-2112-2113-2114-2115-2116-2117-2118-2119-2120-2121-2122-2123-2124-2125-2126-2127-2128-2129-2130-2131-2132-2133-2134-2135-2136-2137-2138-2139-2140-2141-2142-2143-2144-2145-2146-2147-2148-2149-2150-2151-2152-2153-2154-2155-2156-2157-2158-2159-2160-2161-2162-2163-2164-2165-2166-2167-2168-2169-2170-2171-2172-2173-2174-2175-2176-2177-2178-2179-2180-2181-2182-2183-2184-2185-2186-2187-2188-2189-2190-2191-2192-2193-2194-2195-2196-2197-2198-2199-2200-2201-2202-2203-2204-2205-2206-2207-2208-2209-2210-2211-2212-2213-2214-2215-2216-2217-2218-2219-2220-2221-2222-2223-2224-2225-2226-2227-2228-2229-2230-2231-2232-2233-2234-2235-2236-2237-2238-2239-2240-2241-2242-2243-2244-2245-2246-2247-2248-2249-2250-2251-2252-2253-2254-2255-2256-2257-2258-2259-2260-2261-2262-2263-2264-2265-2266-2267-2268-2269-2270-2271-2272-2273-2274-2275-2276-2277-2278-2279-2280-2281-2282-2283-2284-2285-2286-2287-2288-2289-2290-2291-2292-2293-2294-2295-2296-2297-2298-2299-2300-2301-2302-2303-2304-2305-2306-2307-2308-2309-2310-2311-2312-2313-2314-2315-2316-2317-2318-2319-2320-2321-2322-2323-2324-2325-2326-2327-2328-2329-2330-2331-2332-2333-2334-2335-2336-2337-2338-2339-2340-2341-2342-2343-2344-2345-2346-2347-2348-2349-2350-2351-2352-2353-2354-2355-2356-2357-2358-

Struggle for water supply becomes test of fatalism

هكذا من الامم